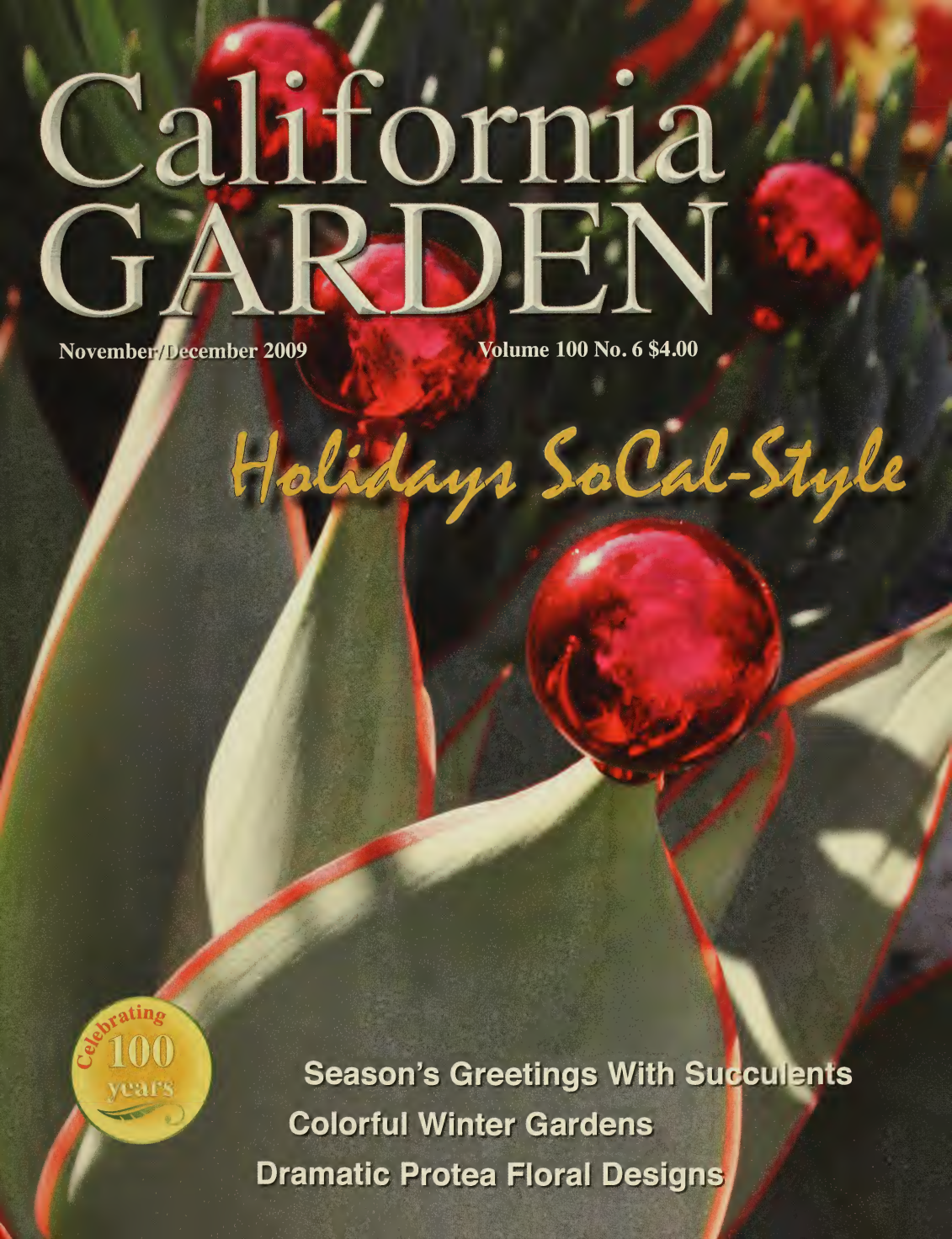
California GARDEN

November/December 2009 Volume 100 No. 6 $4.00

Holidays SoCal-Style



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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

November/December 2009, Volume 100, Number 6

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President's Letter

This issue is number six of volume 100—the last *California Garden* issue of the year and the last of our first century of continuous publication. There are only a few periodical publications in the world that have sustained themselves long enough to see a 100th birthday, so the Floral Association can take great pride in bringing its magazine into that small and select circle. Here we mark the end of our 2009 year-long celebration of the magazine's centennial.

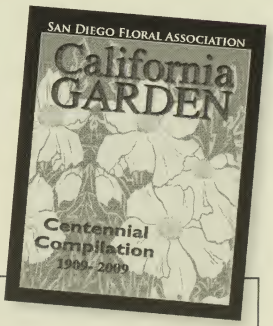
During this centennial year, the magazine has carried the "100 years" gold seal on each cover and a "California Garden Retrospective" feature. In five 20-year segments, we looked back at the content—often cutting edge, occasionally prescient, and almost always informative and entertaining. Many of the magazine's earlier articles hold up extremely well and are well worth reading today. Looking back also allowed us to meet some of the volunteers who extended their time and talent to the magazine. As is the case today, *California Garden* attracted some excellent garden writers through the years. The historical context in which writers and editors worked was touched upon in a timeline of significant local and world events for each segment of the retrospective.

The most momentous centennial event of the year was the Association's publication of the *California Garden Centennial Compilation 1909 -2009*. This last issue of our 100th volume includes a final look back at our magazine by the *Compilation's* editor, Thea Gurns.

As the several centennial events celebrating the 1907 founding of the organization unfolded, Floral president Kay Harry (with characteristic vision and energy) looked ahead to the magazine's centennial. Her idea was to republish significant articles from the first century of *California Garden* magazine in a special book. The California Garden Centennial Fund was initiated to help fund the book's publication and support the future of the magazine. Thea Gurns took on the daunting task of bringing order to the huge selection of potential inclusions and shepherded the *Centennial Compilation* through its design and printing.

Balboa Park's Botanical Building was the setting for a festive book launch on July 23, 2009, when the Floral Association's *California Garden Centennial Compilation, 1909-2009* was presented to the world. As much a slice of San Diego history as a garden book, the *Centennial Compilation* offers historic photographs and hours of reading enjoyment. The book is recommended as a gift. The person who "has everything" has nothing like this unique book, now on sale at the Floral office and at various nurseries and bookstores.

Nancy Carol Carter
President, 2008-09



California Garden Centennial Fund

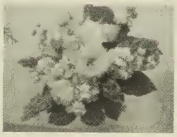
SEQUOIA*	REDWOOD*	TORREY PINE*	SYCAMORE	LIVE OAK	OTHER AMOUNT
$ 1,000	$ 500	$ 250	$ 100	$ 50	$ _____

* Donors at these levels and higher will receive a special presentation copy of the *California Garden Centennial Compilation 1909-2009* published this year by the Floral Association. This keepsake volume reprints a lively selection of articles from the past 100 years of the magazine and permanently records key events in San Diego Floral Association history.

You may address your donations to: Centennial Fund c/o San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. **Make checks payable to: SDFA (note "Centennial Fund").**

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

START THE NEW YEAR WITH THESE CLASSES ON FLORAL ARRANGING SKILLS



Linda Lindgren is the instructor for this series which emphasizes the basics of floral arranging for all skill levels. New and intermediate arrangers will practice floral skills in these January sessions. Class members are encouraged to bring floral material from their yards to use and share with fellow students.

❑ **JANUARY 14** **CLASS 1**

Review the basics of floral arranging and make a traditional arrangement in a basic container. Bring a flat, round or other shape container no larger than 8 inches in diameter. List of materials needed is available at sign-up. For all skill levels.
Cost: $15 members; $20 non-members

❑ **JANUARY 21** **CLASS 11**

Design with your special container. Learn how to design in clear containers and containers with unusual shapes. Bring at least three containers in any shape limited in size to no more than 10 inches high or wide. Students will discuss the mechanics for those containers. List of materials needed is available at sign-up. For all skill levels.
Cost: $15 members; $20 non-members

❑ **JANUARY 28** **CLASS 111**

Holiday flower arranging is the focus, with emphasis on centerpieces for dining tables and buffets, as well as matching accent pieces for the home. List of materials needed is available at sign-up. For all skill levels.
Cost: $15 members; $20 non-members

Sign up for all three classes and save.
Cost is $37 for members; $45 for non-members

It's easy to register!

Just fill out this form (or a copy of it) and mail it to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado, #105 San Diego, CA 92101-1684

PAYMENT FOR CLASSES MUST BE INCLUDED.

Name:

Address:

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Amount Enclosed:

All classes run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and are held in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Coffee and sweets will be provided; bring your own lunch and clippers. Call Kathy Page for more information about San Diego Floral Association workshops at 619-422-2845. To register and pay, call 619-232-5762. Classes are limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

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California GARDEN

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Dig in!

News, tips, advice and products you can use

Protea: Floral Royality

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Long a favorite of floral designers because of their bold shapes and long life, protea are native to South Africa. That country celebrates this unusual plant by calling the national cricket team "The Protea" and claiming the large king protea *(Protea cynaroides)* as the national flower.

The plant entered botanical records in 1605 when a Dutch botanist described a stray bloom that arrived in Holland with a shipment of African fruit. Once the diversity of the plant was known, it was named after the Greek sea god *Proteus* who could transform himself into different shapes.

The North American introduction of this plant is relatively recent and occurred in San Diego County. Howard Asper, an Escondido camellia hybridizer, introduced the protea into cultivation in 1960. The original plantings did not thrive, but Asper tried again and successfully brought protea into bloom in 1964.

Still a rarity in San Diego, protea are successfully cultivated in some home gardens and by a few nurseries (mainly for cut flowers). They are slow to bloom, but once established will flower reliably and attract bees. Although they have a reputation as temperamental plants, the keys to their good health are full sun, good air circulation, spare watering (after the plant is established) and good drainage. Average lifespan varies widely, but it is not unusual for some varieties to live for 10 to 15 years. The flowers are long-lasting and most varieties can be successfully preserved to add a flamboyant touch to dried arrangements.

Commonly seen varieties in San Diego are the queen protea (*P. barbigera*) which has a black, woolly center rising out of a circlet of silvery leaves or bracts. The king (*P. cynaroides*) resembles an artichoke. Sugarbush (*P. repens*) is considered particularly easy to cultivate in this region, though its pale pink or yellow flowers are less interesting than some other protea. Local grower Howard Asper provided the charming popular name of "Pink Mink" for *Protea neriifolia*, which surrounds its pink center with an unexpectedly soft furry brown collar. The duchess or ray-flowerd protea (*P. latifolia,* also *P. eximia*) grows rapidly and flowers within two or three years. Its red-tinged bracts slowly open to reveal a yellow to red to rich purple center.

Proteaceae, the larger botanical family of the South African protea, has many members, including several in Australia, accounting for some confusion about the native land of protea. The African leucadendron and pincushion (*Leucospermum*) and the Australian banksia, grevillea, hakea and stenocarpus are among those family cousins with blooms bearing some resemblance to the South African genus *Protea*, but are all distinct from it.
– *Nancy Carol Carter*

December Nights: Floral's Festive Traditions

Gingerbread cookies and proteas are San Diego Floral Association holiday traditions.

As part of the annual December Nights celebration in Balboa Park, the Floral Association coordinates the presentation of a room full of decorated Christmas trees as a gift to the community. In 2008, more than 15,500 visitors passed through the display, many enjoying the gingerbread cookies vended at the entrance and the proteas sold at the exit.

These sales help the Floral Association fund educational projects, including the cost of publishing *California Garden*.

Everyone knows about gingerbread, but the protea display always sparks interest, especially for those seeing these stiff, dramatic and sometimes furry-centered flowers for the first time.

December Nights will be held Dec. 4 from 5 to 10 p.m. and Dec. 5 from noon until 10 p.m. The Floral Association display, which also includes floral arrangements, is in Room 101 of Casa del Prado near the association's offices. This year, the theme for the dozens of decorated trees is "Celebrating Our 50 States." – *Nancy Carol Carter*

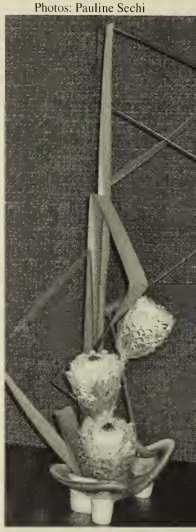
Photo: Kay Harry

A Flower Arranger's Favorite

Proteas are Dazzling for the Holidays or Any Time of Year

by Carvill Veech

Photos: Pauline Sechi



Protea flowers are bold in form, dramatic, eye catching and available in a dazzling array of colors and shapes. They can be placed in arrangements without water for two days and last two to three weeks in a vase. For these reasons, they are a flower arranger's dream.

Originally from South Africa, protea can be grown in USDA Zones 8 and 10 in well drained, slightly acidic soil. They are available in San Diego from December through mid summer. The king protea (*Protea cynaroides*) is a spectacular flower up to 12 inches in diameter with pink outer petals and a soft white center. Queen protea are smaller but no less beautiful. Pink Mink is pink with ruffled black edges while 'Pink Ice' has a frilly white edge.

Spring brings pincushion protea (*Leucospermum*, a *Proteaceae* member also native to South Africa) with 3 to 5 inch globes of yellow, orange or crimson needle-like petals. Another member of the protea family is spectacular banksia, a shrub native to Australia that produces large orange or yellow flowers shaped like a cob covered with short needlelike petals.

The website *www.californiaprotea.org* describes all varieties and availabilities. Because many San Diego County growers ship protea to wholesalers, they are not always easy to buy. In North County, they are sold at some roadside stands and they can be found at some farmers' markets. Florists can order them from the wholesalers.

When these dramatic flowers are allowed to star as the focal point, a design can be very simple. For a flower show-design, use a single type of protea, rather than a combination.

The leaves can be thinned or removed entirely. To support the heavy flowers, floral foam, a pin holder or a sturdy container is necessary. To firmly place the stem on a pin holder, score the bottom of the stem several times with good clippers or a sharp floral knife.

Foliage used with protea is usually bold in form. Cast-iron plant (*Aspidistra*), evergreens, silver dollar eucalyptus, holly, fan palm and cycad (sago palm) leaves work well. Geraldton wax flower (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*), burgundy-hued *Leucadendron* 'Safari Sunset' and tricolor *L.* 'Court Jester' also complement protea.

Protea and banksia are ideal for long-lasting holiday designs. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa give designers a chance to show off the large flower heads in a stunning array of shapes, colors and textures.

For Thanksgiving, the orange and white cones of banksia contrast nicely with smooth gourds and fall leaves. 'Pink Ice' and Pink Mink protea are available through the holiday season. Their gray-green foliage is perfect with pine and fir. 'Holiday Red' protea is a creamy white with true red.

Fresh or air dried they are stunning. For a simple design, three protea with dried wood and some foliage are enough. A single banksia also can be the centerpiece of a stunning design.

Carvill Veech is an Accredited Flower Show Judge and a UCCE Master Gardener.

Dig in!

Friend or Foe: Spiders

Most people fear spiders and while spiders may look scary, most are incapable of harming people and actually are extremely beneficial to your garden.

The majority of spiders only bite humans in self-defense and even then, the bites are barely worse than a mosquito bite. The most fearsome of spiders, the recluse spiders (*Laxosceles*) or widow spiders (*Latrodectus*), will only bite when they feel endangered themselves. (Currently, brown recluse spiders do not reside in California.)

Spiders have many benefits to humans. For example, cooked tarantula spiders are a delicacy in Cambodia. Spider venom is being tested for possible medical uses such as the treatment of cardiac arrhythmia, strokes and even Alzheimer's disease. Spider silk is even being considered for use in clothing.

The place where spiders are most beneficial, however, may be your garden. Spiders are terrestrial predators and eat tons of pest insects every year but do not eat plants. This makes them one of the best biological control agents for gardens.

Spiders can be found in almost any environment and will eat more or less anything in large amounts. Dr. Linda S. Rayor of Cornell University adds, "Since many spiders overwinter as adults, they can reduce prey numbers early in the season before other biocontrol agents are active."

To increase these benefits, try increasing the number of spiders in your garden by using mulch, providing places for homes such as crates, growing tall plants and flowers that bring prey and being careful when spraying pesticide.

Before you consider having only spiders for biological control, know that there are disadvantages to having them do all the work. Spiders are generalist predators and while they will eat pests, they also will also eat non-pest insects and other beneficial predators.

If you do find that you need to manage the spiders in and around your home and garden, remember that first and foremost spiders are beneficial and pesticide control is rarely necessary. Removing hiding spots and regularly cleaning webs off the house is the best technique for spider control.

The bottom line is that spiders are definitely a friend and not a foe. —*Alyssa Holderbein*

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Meetings 2nd Monday of each month
6 - 9 pm ❖ Exciting Meetings - Everyone Welcome!
Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

December 14, 6-9PM
René van Rems
Fabulous Holiday Decor from Overlooked Garden Treasures
Members FREE, Non-Members $5

Our favorite local resident designer, speaker and author René van Rems will entertain and educate you on the art and design of organic sculptures for both interior and exterior applications.

Learn how he transforms everyday garden "trash" such as seed pods, palm fronds, dried berries and other fruit, twigs and palm sheaths into decorative art objects for both classical and ultra-contemporary installations. He'll also highlight how to turn your dried natives into outstanding holiday décor.

All these items will be sold, with proceeds going to SDHS. René's book, *René's Bouquets*, and very popular note cards will be for sale, just in time for holiday gift giving.

Info: sdhortsoc.org
or (760) 295-7089

JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SHOW

"East Meets West"

Presented by
IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO

Date: Saturday, November 7 & Sunday, November 8, 2009

Time: 11am to 4pm

Place: Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

Demonstrations by Teachers 1, 2 & 3pm
Free Admission & Workshop for the Public
Flower Arrangement & Container Sale
Complementary Tea & Cookies

Trees of Balboa Park: Japanese Crape Myrtle

The Japanese crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia fauriei*) is a cross between *Lagerstroemia indica* (native to China) and *Lagerstroemia fauriei* (native to Japan) to develop mildew resistant varieties. There are two cultivars growing around the House of Hospitality. *Lagerstroemia fauriei* 'Natchez' has white flowers and is growing on the west side of the building, in the Plaza de Panama. *Lagerstroemia fauriei* 'Tuscarora' has dark coral-pink flowers and is growing on the north side of the building, on El Prado. The trees were planted in 1997 after the historic reconstruction of the House of Hospitality.

This small tree develops into a vase shape and can reach a height of 20-30 feet. The trunk is smooth, gray-brown and flakes off to form a multi-colored trunk with shades of tan, gray and red. The oval leaves are 1-2 inches long and a glossy green color. The fall foliage color is orange and yellow. In spring, the new growth has a bronze color.

The flowers can vary in color by variety to include white, pink, reds and purples. In Balboa Park, the flowers are white on the trees near El Cid and pink on the trees in El Prado. The flower is crinkly, like crepe paper, about 1 ½ inches across, and forms 6-12 inch clusters on the branch tips in the late summer or early fall.

The flower clusters are followed by woody seed capsules that contain small, winged seeds. The capsules form on the branch tips and persist through the winter even after the leaves have fallen.

The genus is named after Magnus von Lagerstroem (1691-1759) who was a Swedish merchant and friend of Carl Linnaeus. The crape myrtle was introduced into the United States in 1790 by merchants bringing seeds from China.

Excerpted from Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park *(2001; $25) and reprinted with permission from Kathy Puplava, Paul Sirois, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and Tecolote Publications.*

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Lagerstroemia fauriei 'Biloxi'

Photo: Amy R. Wood

Favorite Tool: Four-Pronged Fork

In reality, we all realize that it is necessary to own a variety of garden tools in order to accomplish certain tasks in our gardens. It is, then, the question of which garden tool do we most enjoy using.

I have to choose the four-pronged garden fork, a tool I use each season in the vegetable garden.

Before planting a new crop of vegetables each spring and fall, I use the fork to turn over the soil and to work in bags of amendment. The fork is truly efficient at breaking up the soil, and the weight of the load is manageable. I also enjoy being able to jam the fork into the ground, where it remains standing while I take a break.

The fork is efficient at breaking up clods of soil and is perfect for aerating the lawn. Stubborn bulbs are easy to dislodge and separate with the fork.

I am happy when I use the garden fork, and there is no better recommendation than that.

You may find four-pronged forks for sale at most nurseries and in most big box garden sections. They retail for between $20-$40, dependent on the materials used. –*Victoria Phillips*

SoCal-Style Holidays

Succulents in Seasonal Displays and Cards Send San Diego Greetings

By Debra Lee Baldwin

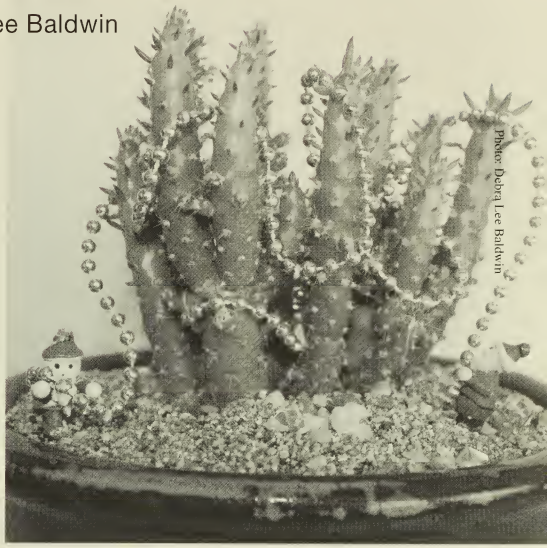
Photo: Debra Lee Baldwin

Isn't it time we San Diegans redefined and clarified our holiday style, rather than accepting that of the frigid northeast? With our glorious winter weather, it's silly to long for a Currier-and-Ives Christmas.

I once received a holiday card from a Southern California gardening friend showing a palm tree draped with colored lights. I loved it, and have looked for regionally-appropriate holiday cards ever since. Among them were a Hallmark sandcastle card; several with poinsettias (which are native to Mexico); and a cartoon of Santa in sunglasses in a hot tub, sipping a margarita.

As I became proficient at garden photography, I began designing my own holiday greeting cards. Now, every December, I look forward to hunting in crafts stores for props.

When I found little styrofoam squares wrapped to resemble gifts, I impaled them on the needles of prickly pear cactus. I don't grow opuntia, but a neighbor does, so I went to her garden with my camera and bagful of doll-sized presents. Challenges included finding a cactus backlit so the spines glowed, and getting close enough to a dangerous plant to decorate it. The perfect clump was clinging to a steep, rocky slope, and I ended up lying on the ground, bracing one foot on the base of the cactus, and twisting so I could shoot up at the subject.

As a former freelance writer for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* specializing in gardening and design, I often worked with U-T staff photographers. I observed them lie on the floor or climb a stepladder to get an unusual or ideal angle. I learned how photos can tell a story, how to orchestrate an image that grabs the reader's attention, and how luck often plays a part. Especially with outdoor photography, you're at the mercy of the elements and capricious lighting.

The second holiday card I made remains my favorite. It was inspired by an heirloom ornament of a thumbnail-sized wooden angel on skis. I decided to have the angel ski down a leaf of *Agave americana* 'Mediopicta Alba'. Leaves of this handsome midsized agave are variegated with a cream stripe that suggests a ski run. In order to make the angel look like it was zipping down a slope, the figure needed to be at a 45-degree angle. To keep the skier firmly on leaf, I used a gumlike adhesive.

I oiled the leaf (using a cotton ball dipped in mineral oil) to get rid of water spots. Later, when the leaf gradually withered, I realized this probably wasn't a good idea. The oil must have clogged essential pores.

I also learned from the pros that it takes trial-and-error to get a perfect shot. Taking multiple exposures used to be expensive because of the cost of film, but digital photography changed all that. I had to come up with 300-plus photos to illustrate my book, *Designing with Succulents*, and in doing so, I took so many shots I wore out a Canon Rebel digital camera. (I now have a newer model.)

The agave that the angel was skiing down was near my home office, so it was easy to take a batch of photos and evaluate them immediately on my computer. I discovered the best angle was at eye-level to the subject, which meant I had to lie on my driveway, much to the amusement of painters working on the house. (I speak Spanish, but explaining what I was doing was beyond me.) My biggest challenge was to avoid showing a crack in the driveway behind the agave. This may seem nitpicky, but I learned from *Sunset* magazine editors that the best garden photography encapsulates an ideal. You can't show a bug-bitten leaf, a garden hose or anything that might shatter the idyllic illusion. So now I evaluate every photo according to what I call "the *Sunset* aesthetic."

Another December I put a cluster of marble-sized red glass Christmas balls in the center of a dyckia, a stiff-leaved whorled plant. I was trying to create the illusion that the dyckia's fruits were Christmas balls, and it almost worked. But I made an amateur's mistake: When you looked at the photo, you could clearly see my reflection in the glass balls. I've observed photographers use reflections brilliantly---they'll deliberately shoot a subject reflected in a mirror, for example---but no photographer wants his or her own image distracting the viewer, even subliminally.

Continued

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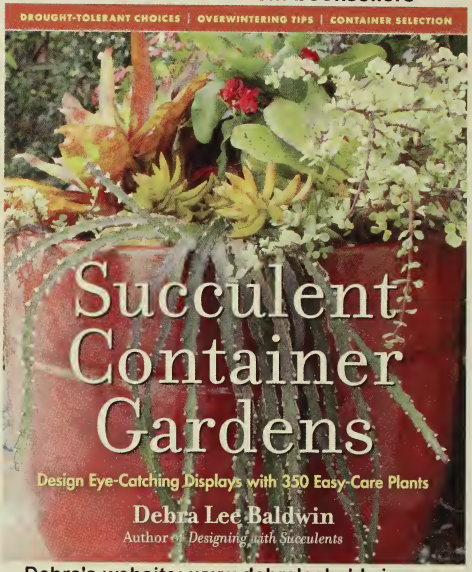

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holidays

Photo: Debra Lee Baldwin

That one didn't fly, but I did get a good shot of an *Aloe striata* decorated with red balls on its leaf tips. This succulent's common name is coral aloe, because the leaves are edged with a lovely line of orange. I was able to catch the plant backlit, so the orange glowed and echoed the warm red of the balls. This composition and that of the skiing angel are in the holiday section of my forthcoming book, *Succulent Container Gardens* (Timber Press, January 2010).

In subsequent years, I played around with glass balls on the tips of agave leaves, but I've yet to come up with anything I like as much as what I discovered in a neighbor's front yard one December: an *Agave parryi* decorated with a multicolored assortment of ping-pong-sized Christmas balls. *Agave parryi* is a large (several feet in diameter) gray artichoke. It also is one of the hardiest agaves; depending on the subspecies, it will go below zero. Agaves are New World plants that tend to grow in dry, rugged terrain, from sea level to several thousand feet. The dozens of species range in size from soccer balls to Volkswagens, and new hybrids are being introduced all the time.

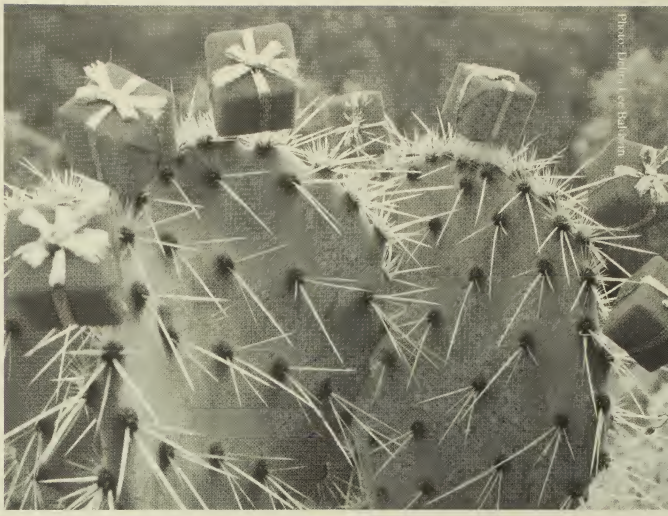
This year I looked high and low in Michael's for tiny figurines that weren't excessively cute or East Coast (i.e. wearing mufflers). I settled on a pair of Santas I thought might work if I posed them decorating a potted cactus or succulent. I tried the Santas with *Aloe ciliaris*, which has dark green leaves toothed with white, but the plant didn't look Christmasy enough. The figures were cute garlanding a diminutive cholla, but I liked them best decorating a mini-forest of *Crassula tetragona*.

Related to jade (*Crassula ovata*), *Crassula tetragona* has slender green leaves that grow at right angles to upright stems. The leaves are progressively shorter toward the ends of the stems, so the plants resemble pine trees. The resulting composition is a traditional Christmas scene with a succulent twist. In addition to being a greeting card subject, it serves as a holiday table centerpiece.

I confess I shake my head when I see cards in local stores that depict snowbound cottages and earmuffed carolers. And as for fake icicles, inflatable snowmen and sleighs in front yards, don't get me started...

Debra Lee Baldwin gardens in Escondido. Visit www.debraleebaldwin.com for more information about succulents, Debra's books and her upcoming speaking engagements.

Cover Photo: Debra Lee Baldwin



Handcraft A Succulent Wreath

These stylish designs are easy to make and last for years

By Debra Lee Baldwin

Most craft stores sell ready-to-plant wire forms for succulent wreaths. Topiary suppliers also stock them, along with three-dimensional wire forms that range from monkeys that can hang from tree limbs to cats with tails raised. Whether you make a succulent wreath or a topiary, the method is similar.

Begin by assembling your cuttings. You want small, lightweight florets, rather than branches so large they are out of proportion to the wire form or so heavy their weight will pull them out. Leaves should range from about an inch in diameter down to the size of a bean. Remove the lower leaves, leaving an inch or two of stem. Store the cuttings in a dry, shady place for a day or so to callus (form a thin tissue of cells over the cut end). Plant them within a week, before leaves start to shrivel.

The loveliest wreaths or topiaries often are the simplest, with just one or two types of succulents, but variety also is intriguing. You can combine anywhere from six to ten kinds of plants. One key to creating a pleasing mix is to choose those with colorful foliage-red, lavender-pink and yellow, for example.

Good succulents for topiaries and wreaths include gray-green *Aeonium haworthii*, medium green *Crassula ovata* (jade), gray-green *Crassula perforata*, dark green and white-striped *Haworthia attenuata*, gray-lavender *Kalanchoe pumila*, feathery chartreuse *Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina', bright green *Sedum kimnachii*, celery green and white-webbed *Sempervivum arachnoideum*, medium green *Senecio rowleyanus* (string of pearls), and blue *Senecio serpens*.

To spice monochromatic wreaths, add contrasting plants at regular intervals or group them like a bow. These might be a jade with colorful leaves, yellow-and-green *Portulacaria afra* 'Variegata', bronze-red *Sedum* × *rubrotinctum*, or bright red *Crassula coccinea* 'Campfire'.

When making a topiary, consider how different colors and textures of succulents might enhance or emphasize various part of the design. For example, the square pattern of a topiary turtle's shell might be outlined in fine-leaved, magenta *Sedum spurium* 'Dragon's Blood', or green, white, and-pink *S. spurium* 'Tricolor'. A dog's ears and tail might be fluffy *S. acre*, which resembles green yarn.

If you plan to hang a wreath on a wall or door (rather than laying it flat on a tabletop or other surface), place mounding, low-growing sempervivums and echeverias on the inside bottom curve and along the top. This will help preserve the wreath's shape, because those plants stay compact. If you use varieties that have an ever-lengthening habit, the center of the wreath will fill in and the top will elongate (unless of course you continually pinch the plants back). And because succulents grow toward the sun, it may be necessary to rotate the topiary or wreath every week or so.

Add succulents with leaves that pop off easily (such as *Sedum morganianum*) last, gently easing the stem into a hole you have made with a pencil or chopstick.

Making a 12-inch wreath

Assemble these materials:

- Twelve-inch-diameter wire wreath frame, available at floral supply shops and crafts stores.
- Several yards of monofilament fishing line or copper wire.
- One or two bags of sheet moss (the moss is peeled off trees in sheets). Sphagnum also can be used, but sheet moss has a fresh green color, fine texture, and creates a carpetlike mat.
- Bucket of water for soaking moss.
- Four to six cups sterile, dampened potting soil. (This is optional; succulents will grow in moss alone. I add soil to wreaths because it is easy to do, as wire wreath forms open like clamshells. It is much more difficult to get soil inside a wire topiary form. Succulents growing in moss alone will need more frequent watering and regular applications of fertilizer.) Buy a bag of cactus/succulent mix, or combine two cups peat moss, two cups perlite, and one teaspoon time-release fertilizer pellets.
- A pencil or chopstick for poking holes.
- One hundred (or so) succulent cuttings. As you assemble them, arrange them according to size, color, texture, and shape, as you would add paint to a palette.
- Florists' pins (optional). If you do not want to wait until cuttings are rooted before hanging the wreath, these U-shaped pins will hold them in place.

After you have assembled your equipment, you can start building the wreath.

1. Open the wire wreath frame; you will have two sections that resemble a doughnut sliced lengthwise. Place the two halves on a waterproof work surface.
2. Soak the sheet moss in a bucket of water for several minutes. Squeeze several palm-sized pieces gently to remove excess moisture, and then overlap them along the half-frames' concave surfaces. Place the sheet moss so the green side faces outward.
3. Mound one of the moss-lined half-frames with soil, pressing and shaping it with the palm of your hand. If you are not using soil, pack the wire wreath frame tightly with moss.
4. Put the two halves back together. Secure them by wrapping the filled wreath frame with fishing line or copper wire, spaced at 1-inch intervals. When you are done, add a loop from which to hang the finished wreath.
5. Using a chopstick or pencil, poke holes an inch or two deep for each cutting. Space them so no gaps show, or farther apart if you prefer a looser, lacier look. Secure cuttings with florists' pins, if desired. If pins are not used, store the wreath flat for a few weeks out of full sun, to give cuttings time to root.

Caring for a wreath or topiary

Wreaths should be watered lightly, daily at first after being newly planted. After the cuttings root, water twice weekly or as needed to keep the moss evenly moist but not soggy. Display the wreath on or against a flat surface, such as a stone wall, that will not be damaged by moisture.

A well-cared-for succulent wreath or moss-filled wire topiary will last for years. Keep the form neat by pinching off new growth. If the arrangement feels lightweight, and/or is hard and dry, soak it in water. If you have an automatic irrigation system, you might want to extend a drip tube to the top of the wreath or topiary so it will receive water at the same time as the rest of your garden. Feed the wreath or topiary several times during late spring and summer with a liquid fertilizer, per package directions. Once cuttings are rooted, keep the wreath or topiary in full sun, unless temperatures soar (90°F or more) and humidity is low. In this case, move the form into an area that is shaded during the hottest part of the day.

Most succulents bloom during late winter, spring, or summer. If you let the plants produce flower spikes, your topiary or wreath will be more colorful, but less tidy.

Excerpted from Designing with Succulents by Debra Lee Baldwin *(Timber Press, 2007, $30).*

Photo: Debra Lee Baldwin, Design credit: Suzy Schaefer

Photo: Debra Lee Baldwin

Decades and Tables:

How *California Garden Centennial Compilation 1909-2009* Came To Be

By Thea Gurns

On a bright January morning two years ago, five people assembled around the circular dining table in the Point Loma home of Kay Harry, then president of the San Diego Floral Association. Through the picture window shone a postcard-worthy view. Sunny hillside tumbled to boat moorings to glittering blue bay, across to tall-towered cityscape and beyond to mountains topped with snow.

Spread on the table were copies of *California Garden*, the magazine published by San Diego Floral Association since 1909. Folders spilled a bounty of copied articles and photographs. From the assortment, Kay asked the group to select *The Best* for inclusion in a book celebrating a sustained hundred years of publication, the nation's second-longest run.

How to choose? Lucy Warren, then executive editor of *California Garden*, suggested a ranking system. Lucy, Kay, then SDFA Board member Nancy Carol Carter, Save Our Heritage Organisation director Alana Coons and me – we were off!

From that moment, view and company have inspired the task. A very California day is imbued into *California Garden Centennial Compilation 1909-2009.*

Other tables were commandeered: My own of glass, buried in printouts; friend of the magazine Bonnie Gebhardt's table with scanning machine and proofing pencils; the Floral office conference table, home to committee debates about the book's length, organization and section titles; production Manager Rachel Cobb's layout table; and the Starbucks table where consultant Dirk Swisher and I hammered out print parameters.

What made the cut? Which subjects, which authors, covers, illustrations and ads did we feel would feed interest on area history, answer questions about how things came to be and/or charm with their language or point of view? Plenty of material made the grade for inclusion. The difficulty came in deciding what to leave out.

Take the March 1913 cover pictured in the book on Page 97, the middle of a trio of emblematic early covers. The headline touts, "More and Better Cared For Street Trees," "The Vital Matter of Rain," "What to Plant This Month in the Garden," "Plea for Our Native Growths," and "Do the Flowers Know?" Practical, timeless, intriguing - all subjects amazingly relevant today.

Flowering over time, news of 1909 has transfromed in 2009 history. A key promulgation was the 1915 Panama California Exposition, an event covered in the book section "Inviting the World to San Diego." Exposition organizers urged citizens to go forward with the "highest courage and patriotic devotion." Floral founder and *California Garden*'s first editor Alfred D. Robinson envisioned in its pages an enormous pleasure resort under a lath dome. "The botanical garden I advocate is easily for San Diego, if San Diego alone says the word." The dream became real for the exposition and the beautiful Botanical Building remains our inheritance. The later 1935 California Pacific International Exposition, reported the magazine, presented "a blaze of floral and arboreal beauty."

Editor Robinson often stood on a soapbox. His great good subject was the making of San Diego Beautiful. Early on, the magazine heralded a "Plea for Our Native Growths" and appealed for cleaning up vacant lots and for water conservation. Succeeding writers pressed for "Preserving Torrey Pines" and for the County's purchase of the El Monte Oaks. In 1972, CDR James H. Ard, U.S.N., Retired, disclosed "Navy Pollution Problems in San Diego: A Situation Report."

Always, *California Garden* has kept faith with the purpose proclaimed in its 1909 "Foreword": to advocate and instruct for shaping "a city of gardens - taking advantage of its wonderful climate, conditions and realizing some part of its possibilities floriculturally." In the compilation, the section "Inspiring Gardeners and San Diego" highlights the education of Floral members, once and still.

When the magazine made its appearance, San Diego remained in large part a landscape of untouched chaparral growing atop mesas and sprawling into canyons. This was unfamiliar ground to most newcomers. Aspiring gardeners needed counsel. A 1910 visitor from Los Angeles, O.W. Howard, judged himself the one to give it. In "This Won't Grow and That Won't Grow in San Diego," he labeled that prevailing attitude "Tommyrot!" San Diego offers "an endless opportunity for landscape gardening." Yes, he knew all about "your hardpan, the rocks and gravel, but isn't it surprising how things will everlastingly grow if you just start them off with a little coaxing, by adding a little topsoil, and some barnyard fertilizer."

"The Next Level: Design" showcases two of our area's finest designers. Richard Requa, celebrated for wonderful Moorish-Spanish buildings in Balboa Park and for courtyard residences, in 1910 emphasized "the garden should be the first and foremost in importance in home building." Roland Hoyt spoke at the October 1937 Floral meeting. As the judge of a recent home garden contest, he had points to make. Responsible for the grand San Diego landscapes of Presidio Park, Mission Bay Park and the Salk Institute, to Floral he emphasized the virtues of the small garden, of opportunity to create "a retreat, a refuge from the cares of the outside, a sanctuary."

"How Does Your Garden Grow?" answers with garden visit stories. A standout dispatch, October 1929, relates the "running fire of raillery" between George Marston and Kate Sessions as the two led a tour of *his* garden largely planted under *her* direction. "It was a lovely afternoon for plant lovers, full of mental and physical sunshine."

There is more – much more – and you should treat yourself to the book to discover the delights of "Going to School," "Ecology and the Environment Back When," "Planting San Diego" and "Gardens Plus: Agriculture and Horticulture."

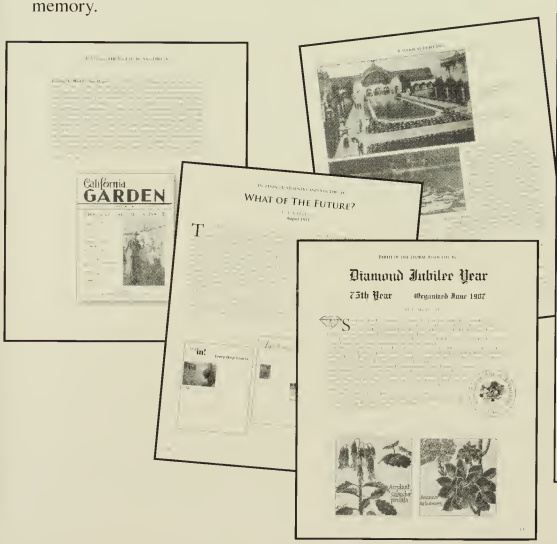
Divert yourself with "Floral Without Walls," in which Kate Sessions reports, "the visit to Mrs. Amy Strong's home near Ramona on April 25th [1936] was a delightful outing." She comments, "the *Bignonia venusta* climbing to the top of the windmill tower proves the warmth of the rock surface protecting it from the cold."

"Days of Glory: Flower Shows" is the largest of the book's sections, replete with seductions of the "May Rose Festival" (1915) and the "Annual Chrysanthemum Tea" (1923). If you're "At Home in Balboa Park," read the section devoted to its history and development. "Rosecroft: A.D. Robinson Creates a Garden" recounts a marvelous summer afternoon spent sipping tea in a wisteria arcade's shade.

For contrast, "Only in *California Garden*" threatens "The Snails are Doomed!" A.D. Robinson at his crankiest inveighs against the cutting of live trees for celebration. He kept at it for years, and the snippets are collected in "A.D. Robinson's Thoughts on Christmas."

Plus, the magazine reports on itself in "*California Garden* Journal." Finally, "Magazine Exotics" includes, among others, a 1915 poem, "Spring Garden Jabberwocky."

Over the years, the magazine enjoyed the support of diverse advertisers and regularly reminded readers to patronize them. Many representative ads are scattered throughout the compilation. From November 1915, the Harold A. Taylor Company suggests pottery from Rookwood as "a X-mas gift to your dearest friend," declaring it "more than acceptable." 1919 saw War Savings Stamps on offer. In February 1929, "Roses of Monterey" is touted, a catalog from Francis E. Lester, Rose Specialist, "full of interesting, personal things that appeal to the Rose Lover." It may be had "Free Upon Request." Rose lovers today would be ecstatic to own this volume from the great man of California roses. If they're fortunate, they grow the fragrant climber named in his memory.



Readers also will delight in the prose of terrific writers attracted to the magazine. Among them are luminaries are Theodore Payne, Alice Greer, Lester Rowntree, Ada Perry, Rosalie Garcia, Guy Fleming, Alice Clark, Barbara Jones and Lucy Warren.

Photos and drawings enrich the book. Page 10 pictures the Floral Building, 1915, with a photo of its elaborate edifice, well worth contemplating and since torn down. Two outstanding cover drawings grace Page 19, lovely renditions of *Kalanchoe pinnata* and *Aeonium arboretum* (Autumn 1951). An askew pine tree, Page 31, makes a dramatic cover for February-March 1960. On page 79 of the book is a picture that should have claimed the cover for the March-April 1990 issue, but instead appeared mid-magazine. It's a photo of a narrow rattan chair with tall back. Legend says Kate Session reigned there, "and spoke her mind on any and all topics at the Governing Board meetings."

Two artists especially stand out, A.R. Valentien with his graceful drawing of matilija poppies dedicated to Floral's use, and the noted editor and artist Alfred C. Hottes who contributed a series of robust woodcuts.

A hundred years of *California Garden* travels work table to work table to end, we hope, on your home table. For fun, for history, for insight, read *California Garden Centennial Compilation 1909-2009*. Its relevance endures.

Thea Gurns is the editor of **California Garden Centennial Compilation 1909-2009**.

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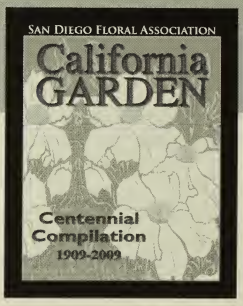

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Reviews

All of the books reviewed in *California Garden* are part of the San Diego Floral Association Library collection (located in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA). Come, browse—and if you're a SDFA member—check them out!

René's Bouquets: A Guide to Euro-Style Hand-Tied Bouquets

By René van Rems
René van Rems International
$39.99 (Hardcover);
$25 (Paperback); 135 pages

This book is now in its second printing with a new cover photo of a lush bouquet of red roses and euphorbia blossoms. If you look for it on Amazon.com, you may think there is only a Spanish version available, but that's incorrect. The book is in both Spanish and English and it can be ordered either as a hardcover or paperback from the author's Web site at *www.Renevanrems.com.*

All this may seem a bit confusing, but, if you love flowers, wonderful photos and want to learn how to make hand-tied bouquets, this book is worth considering.

René van Rems is a distinguished world-renowned, award-winning floral designer who was formally educated in floriculture at the famous Aalsmeer Floral Institute. He is a founding trustee of the Institute of Floral Arts & Sciences, a non-profit business-focused teaching institute in Vista. We are fortunate to have René available to flower lovers and floral designers in San Diego. From my personal experience, he is a lively, articulate, and talented teacher for beginners as well as advanced floral designers.

The book is delightful to look at with beautiful photographs and short, clear descriptions of how to make tied bouquets. The beginning as well as advanced designer will enjoy this book. Also covered are suggestions as to how to select compatible flowers, foliage, containers and accessories for successful hand-tied bouquets.

The only downside I can see in the book is that the scope of the content is limited to the topic, how to make hand-tied bouquets. However, a creative, experienced designer can take the application much further than is covered in the book and use the text and descriptions in many different ways to create stunning floral designs. This book would make an attractive gift for a friend or display for your coffee table.
– *Barbara P. Clark*

The New Book of Salvias: Sages for Every Garden

By Betsy Clebsch
Timber Press
$19.95 (Paperback); 344 pages

This book is an expanded edition of the very successful first book on *Salvias* written by Northern California horticulturist Betsy Clebsch. The book covers approximately 150 beautiful garden-worthy sages, both species and significant hybrids. Clebsch tells us that few groups of plants add as much to a garden as *Salvias*. These plants are as diverse in fragrance as they are in bloom, habit and color. To help readers appreciate these differences, Clebsch has included 149 color photos and several color and line drawings.

A – Z botanical descriptions of the listed *Salvias* include detailed descriptions of habit and information on garden performance. Much can be learned from this reference book on the wide variety of features displayed by the genus *Salvia*. Some are tall, others small; some have large brilliant flowers, others small flowers that are produced in mighty quantities.

The author has made thorough lists that are very helpful for gardeners. Among them in a *Salvia* flowering guide by season, a cold tolerance guide, *Salvias* for a hot and humid climates, water-wise *Salvias*, *Salvias* with especially handsome foliage, unusual flower and foliage colors, and *Salvias* for containers

Betsy Clebsch ensures us that growing *Salvias* in our gardens makes them not only fragrant but also very picturesque. This is a comforting book for those of us working to make our gardens water-wise without the compromise. Enjoy. – *Suzie Heap*

Trees: A Visual Guide

By Tony Rodd and Jennifer Stackhouse
University of California Press
$29.95 (Hardcover); 304 pages

This beautiful and painlessly informative reference work could easily be mistaken for a coffee table book. It is visually pleasing, but the authors present a huge amount of information about trees while effectively using high quality photography, micro-photography, tree silhouettes, charts, diagrams and maps.

The connection between climate zones and types of trees

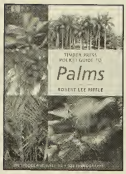
is made. Readers learn how trees "work" in the discussions and illustrations of vascular systems, use of light, types and function of bark, flowers and seeds. The interactions of trees, humans, insects and animals are described, along with the consequences of deforestation and efforts to reforest denuded areas. Trees of the world's forests get attention, along with the trees growing in parks, along city streets and around our homes. The utility of trees is detailed, including uses for medicines, building materials, war, transportation, art and the basic functions of shade and shelter.

One chapter profiles the "world's most exceptional trees," selected because they have attracted special attention from humans due to their usefulness, beauty or botanical significance. Each profile has basic facts, a silhouette of tree architecture, a photograph and a paragraph on the significance of the tree. A "fact" section of the book includes maps locating major forests of the world, drawings that illustrate leaf and tree shapes and lists of families and genera of trees. An index is provided and a glossary assures full understanding of scientific and technical terms.

This is the perfect gift book because it will appeal to such a wide range of interests. It is scholarly and informative enough for the serious arborist or horticulture student and compact and beautiful enough to satisfy more casual interests.

The authors are botanists who bring expertise and passion to their subject, but begin with the simplest of questions: What is a tree? Their book helps us better appreciate trees and understand them as miracles of nature.

– *Nancy Carol Carter*



Pocket Guide to Palms

By Robert Lee Riffle
Timber Press
$19.95 (Paperback); 237 pages

This pocket reference guide covers 200 species and hybrids of palms listed from A to Z and accompanied by 323 photographs. This reviewer is not knowledgeable about palms. Thus, this handy book is a great addition to my library.

It is exciting to peruse the nursery sources featured in this guide. Five nurseries in San Diego County are listed with addresses, phone numbers and web addresses. Among them are the Good Earth Nursery (*www.palms4u.com*) and J. D. Andersen (*www.jdandersen.com*) in Fallbrook; Jungle Music Palms & Cycads (*www.junglemusic.net*) in Encinitas; Aloha Tropicals in Oceanside (*www.alohatropicals.com*); and Parkway Nursery (*www.parkwaypalms.com*) in Vista.

The book is intended as a reference for gardeners of all levels of experience. Vital to the usefulness of the text are chapters on cultivation information for specific purposes and location, uses in the landscape, pruning, aesthetic concerns, human safety and health of the palms.

I found the lists covering drought tolerant palms, water-loving palms, fast-growing palms, ground-covering palms, hedge and screen palms, large palms, small palms, palms tolerant of alkaline soil, salt-tolerant palms, palms with colored new growth, palms with permanently colored leaves or crown shafts, palms for indoors and palms for temperate climates a wonderful resource. There is a palm for everyone here.

Borrow this pocket guide from the Floral Association Library and have a look-see. You will not be disappointed and you will probably want to own your own copy for repeated reference. – *Suzie Heap*

New to the Library

- *Seeds: Time Capsules of Life* (Firefly Books, 2006) By Rob Kesseler and Wolfgang Stuppy. A much needed, more modern botanical science book for the Floral Library. Also a good reference for botanical photography enthusiasts. A good combination of science and art.
- *Pollen: The Hidden Sexuality of Flowers* (Firefly Books, 2006) By Rob Kesseler and Madeline Harley. Another much-need, more modern botanical science book for the Floral Library. As the publisher states, this is "a sensual collaboration of nature, science and art." Scientific photography is an outstanding feature as well.
- *Orchidelirium* (Bulfinch Press, 2007) By Harold Feinstein. Largely a photographic collection of orchids pictured up close. Minimal text.
- *Encyclopedia of Planting Combinations* (Firefly Books, 2008) By Tony Lord, photos by Anthony Lawson. Fully expanded and updated version of the original British book. Will be reference only in the Floral Library.
- *Fragrant Designs* (Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009) Edited by Beth Hanson. For those who want a sweet-smelling garden as well as one with eye appeal.
- *Guy Fleming Writings and Related Articles* (Torrey Pines Docent Society) With photos from the Natural History Museum. Articles published between 1916 and 1956 collected from *California Garden*. Will be reference only in the Floral Library.

Now is the time

Timely tips to keep your plants happy throughout November and December

African Violets

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Look for small blooms and leaves that cup or have turned gray. You could have an insect infestation. Use a magnifying glass to inspect for pests.
- Pots should be one-third the width of the plant. Small pots may need to be potted down and larger plants may need to go into the next size of container.
- Violets should have only a single crown. Remove suckers and start them as "bonus" plants. Suckers tend to take away nourishment from the main crown.
- If you have plants with long necks, it is time to operate or the plant will eventually droop to one side. Remove lower leaves and cut the neck two inches below the remaining bottom leaves. Scrape the sides lightly so that roots will form more easily. Allow the neck to "heal" for half an hour and plant. Cover the new plant with a plastic bag and keep it in a dark place with no fertilizer so it can rejuvenate before going back into the sunlight.
- Water your plants with warm water to avoid shock.

Begonias

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Continue watering.
- Clean out spent blooms and dead leaves.
- Add soil or mulch to keep roots covered.
- Spray for pests, insects and mildew.
- Feed lightly several times a month unless using a time release fertilizer.

Bonsai

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Stop fertilizing.
- November brings hot Santa Ana winds. Watch for spider mites. Hose junipers and pines vigorously on dry days and be mindful of temperature fluctuations.
- Clean up your deciduous trees. Remove old leaves, seeds and fruit.
- Pull old pine needles.

Bromeliads

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Cut down on watering and stop fertilizing outdoor plants during the cold months.
- Continue fertilizing green house plants and indoor plants year round. Use one teaspoon of a granule fertilizer (14-14-14) over the potting media of a 6- inch pot. Or you can spray foliage with a water soluble fertilizer, but only use 1/2 or 1/3 of the amount recommended on the label.
- Keep plants protected from hail damage during the rainy season. Provide overhead protection, by using shade cloth or other material that allows filtered sun light to reach your plants.
- Cover outdoor plants with old sheets or other material during a freeze. Do not use plastic covering.
- Enjoy having your genus *Bilbergia* as it blooms now. Their graceful inflorescence can last from one to two weeks.
- Remember to collect rain water for future use. Your plants will love it and will greatly reward you.

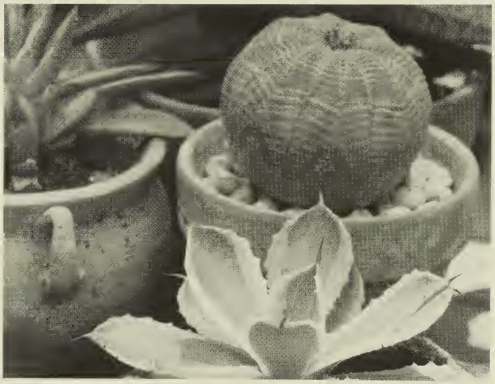


Photo: Rachel Cobb

Cacti and Succulents

Joyce Buckner, The Plant Man Nursery in Old Town

- Watch the weather and be aware of nighttime temperatures. Keep exotic frost-tender plants — lithops, adeniums, pachypodiums, small potted cacti, etc.- in a dry protected area.
- Trim trees and bushes; remove all dead foliage from awnings, roof, gutters and overhangs. This will insure adequate sunshine. Too much shade, cold or damp can cause mold, fungi and bacteria to develop.
- Make certain all potted plants have proper drainage.
- Should we actually get the rain we so badly need this winter, make certain that excess rainwater is not accumulating

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anywhere. Many San Diego gardens have though slow-draining clay beds which may go unnoticed until we have a rare rainy winter.

- Winter growing succulents—dudleya, aeonium, senecio, etc. - should be starting to pump up. Make sure they get adequate sunlight and give them morning water if there is no rain, or during the warm Santa Ana winds.

Fern

Camellias

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

- Fertilize monthly September through January with 2-10-10 for extra large buds.
- Remove all but the largest bud where bud clusters exist. Disbudding provides larger but fewer blooms.
- Pick up blooms that fall to the ground to prevent petal blight.
- Feed with an iron supplement to grow dark green leaves.
- Maintain a regular watering regimen. Don't let plants dry our, but if it rains heavily, cut back on supplemental watering.
- Prune out branches that might prevent buds from opening.
- Watch for aphids, mites, loopers and other insects and treat accordingly. Note that camellias suffer from few insect problems.
- Move, re-pot or bare-root and re-pot now since camellias are beginning their dormant season (October through March). When planting, whether in the soil or in a pot, plant one inch higher than soil level. Camellias don't like their crowns covered. Also, remember some camellias like shady spots and some like sun. Check your nursery tag or ask nursery personnel.
- Look for camellias in nurseries now. *Camellia sasanqua* 'Yuletide' blooms during the holidays - thus the name "Yuletide." Other midseason (December through February) bloomers are 'Guilio Nuccio,' 'Kramer's Supreme,' 'Tiffany,' 'Debutante,' 'Silver Waves,' 'High Fragrance' and 'Scentsation.'

Dahlias

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Withhold water and fertilizer to allow the plants go dormant.
- Allow plants to dry. When the stalk is brown about 12 inches from the ground, cut it off. Leave tubers in the ground to harden off, if there is good drainage. Otherwise lift roots before the heavy rains.
- Wash clumps after digging. Let dry a few hours before storing. If dividing tubers, treat cuts with soil sulfur. Then store out of the weather in vermiculite or other medium. Be sure tubers are tagged before storing.
- Get new tuber orders ready for buying from the major growers. Orders are shipped first come first serve, usually in February or March.

Ferns

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Save rain water for plants.
- Most ferns aren't growing much this time of year. Do not over water.
- Trim off dead fronds.
- Fertilize in early November; then let the plants rest until spring.
- Remove and remount *Platycerium* pups.
- Sow spores.

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Nov. 9: Developing The Huntington's Chinese Garden
Horticulturist David MacLaren's fascinating behind-the-scenes look at a very different kind of garden. Hear about the challenges of working with Chinese and American design and construction companies, the intricacies of the design phase, and the daunting task of building traditional Chinese structures in a high seismic zone. Members free, non-members $5.

Dec. 14 René van Rens on Fabulous Holiday Decor from Overlooked Garden Treasures
Please see our other ad for details on this exciting program.

Info: sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089

- Look for snails, slugs, giant whiteflies and other pests. Treat as necessary.
- Protect plants when the weather dips below 40 degrees F.

Fruit Trees and Vines

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Prune deciduous trees and vines after their foliage has dropped. Wait until early spring to prune evergreens.
- Spray dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil to kill scale, insects, spider mites and other over-wintering pests.
- Spray peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) to control leaf curl.
- Order low chill, bare root trees and vines to plant in December or January.
- Provide frost protection for young avocado, citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.
- Learn more about backyard orchards at http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu.

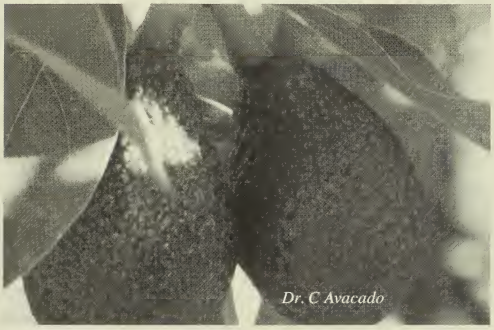

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Herbs

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Plan your winter/spring herb garden.
- Perennials to plant this time of year include rosemary, lavender, thyme and rue.
- Annual herbs to add to vegetable and flower beds now include borage, calendula, cilantro, chickweed, chives and nasturtium.
- Prune to shape native sages, rosemary and lavender.
- Cut mints down to the ground and add soil amendment.
- Harvest lemongrass, chaste berries, ginkgo leaves and fennel seed.
- Remember to include coriander, marjoram, tarragon and saffron in your holiday cooking.

Irises

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- If you did not fertilize after the bloom season, do it now and use a low nitrogen fertilizer like 6-20-20, or even 10-10-10.
- Be sure to clean out all dead leaves and look for aphids at the base of the leaves. Spray with a systemic insect control spray to prevent pests from wintering over.
- Keep your iris beds free of weeds.
- It is not too late to dig and divide your clumps and replant the rhizomes.
- If you have rebloomers, you need to fertilize and water more to get them to bloom. When you feed, spread the fertilizer around the clump. Try to avoid putting it directly on rhizomes.

Native Plants

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Prepare the native landscape for winter and spring.
- Prune and deadhead the sages and buckwheats. Do not prune toyon; it really shows off in November and December.
- Dig new holes for plantings. Fill with water several times before planting. Little or no soil amendments should be used. The next few months are the best for establishing native plants.
- Sow seeds for wildflowers like California poppy, Chinese houses, mountain garland, owl's cover and farewell-to-spring.
- It is wonderful to sow or plant just before a big storm or between storms. Let nature do its thing.

Orchids

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

- Look for aphids and other pests on spikes of the Mexican laelia growing outside.
- Water plants before noon and protect outdoor orchids from evening moisture. Do not overwater outdoor plants. They tend to rot easily this time of year.
- Water and fertilize less in the winter than during the summer. Developing spikes however do appreciate some fertilizer and extra water.
- Train developing spikes on cymbidiums.
- Acclimate cool-growing orchids to your outdoor growing area.

Pelargoniums

Jim Zemcik, San Diego Geranium Society

- Start a pruning program. To get fuller plants and more blooms in the spring, start now by cutting back one-third of the stems about two-thirds of their length. Tip pinch the rest of the stems. Cut back one-half of the remaining stems in 30 days and the rest in 60 days. If the rest of the stems have budded out heavily in new growth, you may want to cut them back now.
- Start new plants from cuttings. Put the ends of stem cuttings in pots or well-draining trays of damp perlite. Space cuttings three inches apart in trays or place uniformly in pots and water when dry. Do not fertilize for the first 30 days.
- Clean plants by removing dead, damaged or older leaves. Watch for geranium rust in high humidity areas and treat appropriately.
- Although less water is needed in cooler months, be careful not to let plants get too dry. If plants are in pots, remember that the foliage will cause rain to run off outside the pot. So even if the weather is damp, it is important to maintain your water cycle. Avoid getting the foliage wet when watering.

- Continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use at one-third to one-half of the label's recommended strength. Apply at two week intervals.
- Budworms continue at this time of year. Use a good systemic insecticide for best results. Follow manufacturers' dosage recommendations and apply at 30-day intervals.
- Protect plants from heavy weather. Move them under eves, trees or temporary shelters during heavy rains.

Plumerias

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Prepare plants for winter dormancy.
- Feed well with a high phosphorous fertilizer (10-60-10).
- Remove dead flowers and leaves.
- Place next to a building or under a covered patio to protect from wet and cold. Cover soil on large pots with mulch.
- Bring plants inside in frost areas.
- Once leaves are dormant, hold back all water and fertilizer.

Roses

Roger English, San Diego Rose Society

- Instead of cutting the stems below old blooms, pull petals. This will encourage development of rose hips and semi-dormancy.
- Stop all feeding to discourage new growth.
- Reduce water enough so that the rose will survive but not be encouraged to grow.
- Select roses that are not performing well and remove. Prepare the hole for a new rose with amendments if needed.
- Buy new bare root roses usually available in second or third week of December.
- Plant bare root roses after soaking roots in a bucket or barrel for at least 24 hours. If the rose comes in a cardboard container, remove and trim any broken roots before soaking in water.
- Floribundas may be winter pruned beginning the last week in December.
- For any questions go to *www.sdrosesociety.org* to contact a San Diego Rose Society consulting rosarian or call (619) 582-3794.

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Vegetables

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Remove and compost warm-season vegetables to prevent pests and diseases from over-wintering on them.
- Continue planting cool-season vegetables that will not be subject to frost injury.
- Plant seeds of short-day onions (Grano, Granex, or Chrystal Wax) and garlic cloves in November for bulbs next summer.
- Plant dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus and rhubarb. Avoid crown rot of rhubarb by planting crowns in containers filled with porous potting soil and transplanting into a garden where drainage is good after several leaves have developed.
- Learn more about vegetable gardening at *http://vric.ucdavis.edu*.

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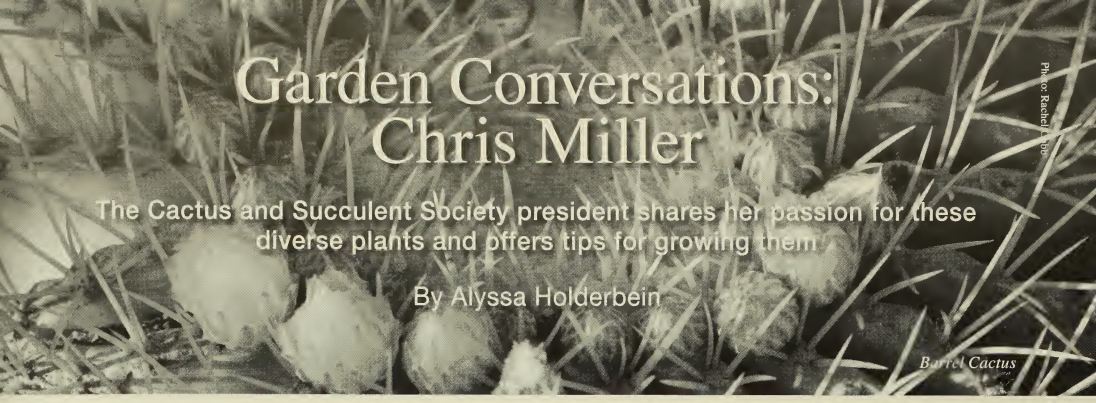
Garden Conversations: Chris Miller

The Cactus and Succulent Society president shares her passion for these diverse plants and offers tips for growing them

By Alyssa Holderbein



Photos: Rachel Dibble

Barrel Cactus

Chris Miller's passion for cactus and succulents is evident. She has been planting succulents here in San Diego since 1981 and has become on expert in her field. Currently she is president of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. Here she shares her knowledge and excitement with *California Garden* readers.

California Garden: How did you first come to grow cactus and succulents? Do you prefer cactus or succulents?
Chris Miller: My first adventure with succulents was in Rota, Spain, which has a climate very similar to here. We moved to Bremerton, Washington, from there and I was back among the pine trees I was raised with. When we moved to San Diego in 1981 I was very happy to plant succulents again. We moved to Santee in 1989 and I found that succulents were the only plants that survived for me. I love both cactus and succulents.

CG: What was it that attracted you to cactus and succulents? What makes them special to you?
CM: I'm attracted to the shape, texture and variability between plants. They're special because they survive despite what I do or don't do for them. It's like loving someone, because they love you. They are odd, interesting and always a surprise.

CG: Was there one person who influenced your interest and love of cactus and succulents?
CM: My stepfather, Chic Roberts, was a gardener for a city park in Portland, Oregon. He could grow anything. My love of plants started with him. My allergies to pollen drove me to cactus and succulents.

CG: How many would you like to have?
CM: I probably have too many plants now and every time I see something new I want one. Something like wanting infinity and having to deal with the reality of available space.

CG: What do people typically do wrong in caring for cactus and succulents?
CM: Watering too much or not enough will kill the plant. Putting them in full sun is also a mistake. Many succulents live under trees or bushes or in grasslands. Also most plants that are for sale are raised in nurseries and require some time getting used to the sun.

CG: Are there special challenges, or benefits, to growing cactus and succulents in the San Diego climate?
CM: The microclimates in San Diego County make growing cactus and succulents interesting. What grows well on the coast will struggle in Santee. Since I live in Santee I can talk to my challenges. Frost in December and January limits softer plants and some South American and tropical cactus. October Santa Anas can burn the heartiest plant. On the positive side it gets cold and hot and that is part of what it takes for cactus to bloom.

CG: What is your favorite cactus or succulent?
CM: My favorite cactus is *Ferocactus*. I love the color and diversity of the spines. My favorite succulent is *Gasteria*, a South African plant family that is related to aloes.

CG: What would you recommend for a beginner?
CM: Start small and experiment in your microclimate. Come to SDCSS meetings and learn about the plants. We have a large membership with lots of incredible experts. It's also a great place to get more plants.

CG: Do you have a cactus or succulent "hero?"
CM: I have lots of heroes. I love reading a book on a specific type of plant and finding a name of someone I have met in the book. My local hero is Jürgen Menzel, who has a cactus named after him and volunteers at the Wild Animal Park's Baja Garden.

CG: What books or other sources of information would you recommend for people to learn more about cactus and succulents?
CM: I recommend Miles Anderson's book, *Succulents: Care and Health*. Miles lives in Tucson, Arizona, so his climate is closer to ours than someone writing a general book in England. His pictures are great and his general information works. Another book is *Succulents Care and Health* by Rudolf Schultz and Attila Kapitany.

CG: Besides enjoying cactus and succulents, what are some of your other interests?
CM: I love to read science fiction and I collect Kokeshi dolls.

Winter Gardens That Wow

By Mary James

Three designers create home landscapes that sparkle with color, textures and sculptural shapes

Does your winter garden get the blahs? Don't worry if the answer is yes. Almost everyone has looked around their garden in December or January and sighed.

Winter is an in-between season here, wedged between our enviable fall planting time and glorious spring bloom. Most gardeners worked hard in autumn planting and pruning until, like everyone else, they were swept up by the holidays. When a new year brings them back to the garden, the focus is on spring, not the season at hand.

There's another reason winter gardens may suffer. There's little winter color in nurseries to tempt or inspire beyond some predictable cool-season annuals. By November, plant inventories are cutback to make way for Christmas trees, poinsettias and goodies for gift giving - a sensible move since most gardeners are mall-hopping not nursery-hopping anyway.

But San Diego gardens don't have to be drab in winter. Winter's cool days and wet weather are a welcome change. Light becomes magical as clouds scud by and the sun arcs low in the sky. Rain refreshes plants and washes away dulling dust. For the first time in weeks, gardens seem to glow.

In this too often unappreciated setting, there are plenty of plants that shine. Some have waited in the background and now standout; others were dormant and have sprung back to life. The spectacular flowers or berries on many rival spring bloomers for beauty. And there are some that have lost their leaves, only to reveal a sculptural shape or dazzling bark.

Meet three gardeners who find great pleasure in their winter gardens. The plants they praise for seasonal fireworks can chase the blahs away from the garden - and gardener too.

Photo: Nan Sterman

Striking blooms on sculptural aloes, shown here in Nan Sterman's garden, are designers' favorites for winter color.

Nan Sterman, horticulturist, author and garden designer, who hosts "A Growing Passion" on Channel 4. Her garden is in Olivenhain.

The silhouettes of three statuesque sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*) 20 to 40 feet tall, set the scene for winter in Sterman's backyard. "People make the mistake of wanting everything to be evergreen," she says. "Yes the green is beautiful, but then they complain we don't have seasons. Put in a deciduous tree and then the seasons become very distinct."

After the sycamores' leaves turn gold and fall, their twisting branches and peeling bark mottled in shades of cream, brown and green are a brilliant contrast with winter's pale skies. "They are beautiful," she says.

Another deciduous tree, a 15-foot-tall crape myrtle *(Lagerstroemia indica)* also in the backyard, reveals pink, gray and tan mottled bark in winter. "This tree has year-round interest," she says. "There are big white flowers in the heat of summer and gold, orange and copper leaves in autumn. Then you see the really pretty bark in winter."

Plant combinations designed to add interest in different seasons help bridge fall into spring. "You want things that are 'on' when everything else is 'off,'" Sterman says. "Then the garden is successful."

As an example, she points to a 'Platt's Black' phormium in a back border. From spring into summer, its deep burgundy strappy leaves are an eye-popping backdrop for California poppies and Mexican tulip poppies (*Hunnemannia fumariifolia*), both with lacy blue-green foliage. In winter, before the poppies bloom, the phormium takes center stage.

Other perennials and shrubs are upstaged in winter when the aloes in her garden bloom. "Their bloom stalks are enormous candelabras with poker-shaped flowers in peach, yellow and coral," she says. "Very showy, very dramatic."

Sterman grows both *Aloe cameronii*, with its toothy arching leaves that turn brick red when the plant is water-stressed, and *Aloe arborescens* with 1- to 3-foot wide rosettes with long serrated green leaves. Over time *A. arborescens* can spread 10 feet tall and wide.

Photo: Nan Sterman

A dramatic 'Platt's Black' phormium contrasts with a yellow-flowered Salvia madrensis *in Nan Sterman's garden.*

Another succulent star is the variegated *Agave americana* 'Marginata.' Poppies dance at its feet in spring, but in winter, its wide green leaves edged in creamy yellow stand out, pretty as any flower and much longer lasting.

Early blooming bulbs also spark a winter garden. Near her front door, Sterman has planted *Gladiolus tristis*, an African native with tall leaves slender as grass and creamy yellow trumpet flowers that greet visitors with a sweet scent.

A California pepper tree nearby is underplanted with another winter bloomer from Africa, forest lilies (*Veltheimia bracteata*). Long leaves with scalloped edges hug the ground; above them rosy pink tubular flowers bloom on 1 to 2 foot tall stems.

A problem in any season, the dry-shade under a Torrey pine in the rear yard glows with the cool-season chartreuse blooms of perennial hellebores *(Helleborus argutifolius*). While she doesn't have them in her garden, Sterman also recommends the shade-loving heartleaf bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*) with its dainty pink flowers. On new cultivars, foliage varies from bronze to yellow green, for added interest.

Linda Whitney, landscape designer, owner of Garden Retreat Design and a Master Gardener. Her garden is in Eastlake in Chula Vista.

Frosty temperatures, cold enough for birdbaths to ice over, are hallmarks of winter in Linda Whitney's garden on a hilltop in the South Bay community of Eastlake. "But I have plenty of plants that give lots of interest in this season," she says.

One favorite is the California native toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) that grows outside her office window. Often called California holly, evergreen toyon bears bright red berries in winter. "The birds go crazy for them," she says. "And in a shady area, the red really pops. It's fabulous all year round, but really shines in winter."

A hybrid of another native plant, *Ceanothus* 'Joyce Coulter,' spends much of the year as a companion plant in the front yard. Its glossy bright green leaves contrast with the lemon-green foliage of coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and the lacy silver leaves of *Artemisia* 'Powis Castle.' But as early as January, the ceanothus flowers, adding its sky-blue color to the mix. "It's stunning in bloom," she says.

When rain is forecast, Whitney scatters seed for a third native, golden-orange California poppies. She loves them in the backyard weaving through a burgundy blanket flower (*Gaillardia* 'Burgundy') that also is awakened by the rain. Nearby are the shiny dark green blades of 'Karl Foerster' feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis)* and the soft gray-green leaves of Jerusalem sage (*Phlomis fruticosa*).

The poppies also are cheerful companions with the lavender flowers of *Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina' that edges a path. "The verbena blooms like crazy all winter long and off and on all year," she says. "I don't know why it doesn't burn itself out."

After a rain storm, Whitney finds exceptional beauty in the her garden, when foliage sparkles in the sunlight. "I go out with my camera between storms," she says, "although no camera can take in all that my eyes can see. Everything in the garden is glistening. … Winter light lets you see so much. The light, the shadows, are so different."

Foliage isn't a must for winter beauty, Whitney says, pointing to a quartet of sculptural weeping mulberries (*Morus*) that anchor a crossroads in her garden. "They are beautiful in spring when they fill with berries and in fall when the leaves turn bright yellow," she says. "In winter, when the leaves have dropped, I can see the rest of garden through them. For even more seasonal interest, I ringed them with daffodils.

Photo: Ruth Wolfe

The gnarled trunk of California pepper tree is surrounded by 'Avalanche' narcissus, rosemary and 'Gilt Edge' silverberry in a garden designed by Ruth E. Wolfe.

A nearby garden Whitney designed is a destination for seasonal views of a favorite hybrid aloe named for a South African horticulturist. *A.* 'Cynthia Giddy' has red-blushed foliage and Christmas red flowers on a multi-branched stalk. "I planted five of them together for a beautiful display," she says.

Ruth E. Wolfe, landscape designer based in Oceanside. Wolfe also is a Master Gardener.

Compared to other seasons, the winter garden exudes a quiet beauty, says Wolfe. "When the raucous bloom of spring and fall are stripped away, the beauty of the larger plants - the framework of the garden - stands out," she explains. "Then we can appreciate more the textures and the tapestry of colors, in a well-designed garden."

Photo: Ruth Wolfe

Coral aloe blooms spark a border that mixes gray- and green-foliaged shrubs and perennials in a Ruth E. Wolfe-designed garden.

At its best, the winter garden reveals a deft mix of foliage, textured bark, sculptural shapes and colors that pop in the soft light. Among her favorite hues for the season are "icy gray and white, bright golds and greens tinged with blue or gray."

All can be found in a favorite small tree, *Melaluca incana*. This weeping limbs of this Australian native are dressed with slender gray foliage that's "like a night light in the garden," Wolfe says. Evergreen and drought tolerant, the 9 to 12 foot-tall tree is an ideal backdrop until it takes center stage in winter.

Silvery gray-green foliage of another Aussie is a foil for yellow kangaroo paws in summer. But when the flower spikes are cutback, woollybush (*Adenanthos drummondii*) can stand alone. Foliage on this 5- to 6-foot tall and wide shrub is needle-like but soft and its scarlet flowers can be used in floral arrangements.

Outside her own home, Wolfe showcases an all-season favorite, *Gardenia thunbergia*. The smoky-white bark on this angular small tree with its glossy green leaves are a backdrop for the airy rust-colored plumes of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light' in Wolfe's garden. The grass is cut back in late fall, just as the gardenia bursts into winter bloom with "the mother of all gardenia flowers - very fragrant," Wolfe says.

Other standouts in winter include hybrids of some garden favorites with unusual foliage, including a gold-leafed butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii* 'Golden Purple'), a sky flower with green leaves splashed with white (*Duranta repens* 'White Lace'), and a silverberry (*Elaeagnus ebbingei* 'Gilt Edge') with dark olive leaves outlined in gold.

Variegated succulents also are among Wolfe's favorites for all-season interest. Many bloom in winter - or are still blooming, as is he case with *Echeveria* 'Afterglow.' Ruffled purple-pink rosettes edged in red "kick off their bloom in July but still have flower spikes in winter," she says. Pink, green and white *Crassula ovata* 'Tricolor,' green and white *Aeonium* 'Kiwi' and red-stemmed *Portulacaria afra* 'Variegata' with it cream-dipped leaves also are strong performers

Two winter-blooming sages and some naturalizing bulbs fit easily into this winter tapestry. Both green-leafed *Salvia wagneriana* and gray-green *S. karwinskii* sport big bright pink flowers. *S. karwinskii* can grow to 8 feet tall, while *S. wagneriana* is shorter and bushier.

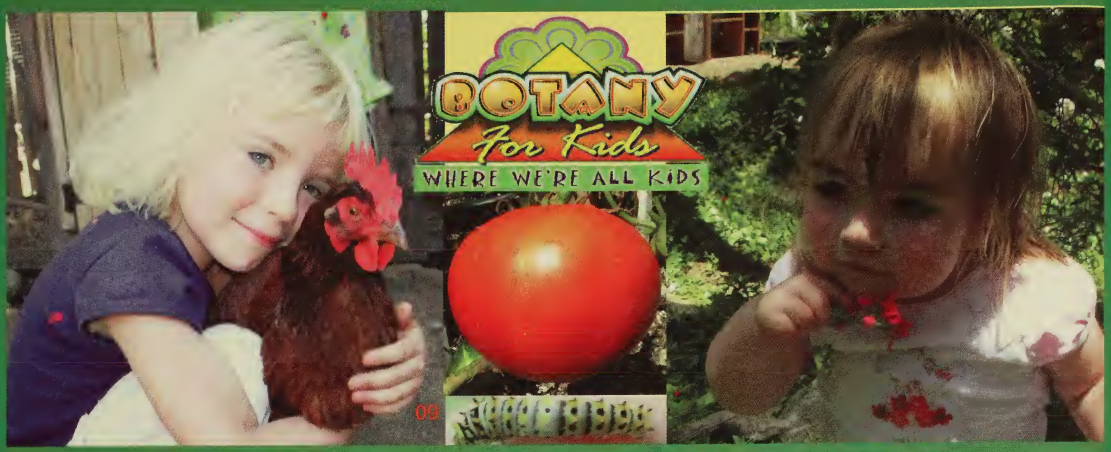
Amaryllis, blue and purple baboon flower (*Babiana*) and the poorly named summer snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*) with lily-of-the-valley-like flowers bloom in early winter and spread overtime to form substantial clumps.

For color along a path or border edge Wolfe suggests the diminutive (to 7 inches tall) *Haemanthus albiflos* with its strappy leaves and white pincushion-like flowers centered with green and yellow stamens. "After the flowers, the flower spikes are covered with red-orange berries that last a long time. This is a great one," Wolfe says.

Verbena lilacina *'De La Mina' edges a path with winter color in Linda Whitney's garden.*

Photos: Linda Whitney

Plant a Seed. Feed the Earth. Grow our Future.



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John Noble has over thirty years of gardening experience. He enjoys helping homeowners create a garden that works for them.

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SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for November and December 2009

November Events

NOVEMBER 3

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
Join this group to learn more about orchid propagation and conservation.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

NOVEMBER 4

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
Our featured program this month will be about herbal teas.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

NOVEMBER 6

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Vista Garden Club Scholarship Luncheon and Fundraiser.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Grace Presbyterian Church, 1450 East Vista Way, Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

NOVEMBER 7

2 DAYS

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
"East Meets West" Japanese Flower Arrangement Show and Sale
When: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, and Sunday, Nov. 8
Teacher demonstrations at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING
Don't miss our last meeting of the year.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botantic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: 858-566-0503

NOVEMBER 8

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
This month's featured speaker is Glenn Jensen.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY MEETING
Cultivate your interest in begonias.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.kolzbegonia.com*

NOVEMBER 9

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
David MacLaren discusses the new Chinese Garden at the Huntington Botanical Garden.
When: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

NOVEMBER 10

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
Come share the beauty of bromeliads.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500, *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
DVGC is celebrating 54 years of gardening excellence.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
Please join us for our monthly meeting.
When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540, *www.sdgeranium.org*

NOVEMBER 11

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Come join the fun.
When: 9:30 a.m. Hospitality; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More Information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, *dmontg@live.com*

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Rene Van Rems, AFID, will demonstrate the latest in floral design trends.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More Information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
This month's topic is "Unusual Container Gardening."
When: 9:00 a.m.
Where: Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park, Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Cary Sharp, Wild Animal Park horticulturalist, will speak.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

NOVEMBER 12

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
Annual election of officers and directors at this general membership meeting.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

NOVEMBER 14

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Enjoy beautiful bromeliads; make beautiful friendships.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

NOVEMBER 16

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Expand your knowledge of roses with this club.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

NOVEMBER 17

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
LJGC - where friendships and gardens blossom.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7111 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More Information: Fran Sheinbein, 858-488-5618

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join RSDGC; it's informative and fun.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
Contact: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Native plants are drought tolerant; join us and learn more.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-434-5033, *www.cnpssd.org*

NOVEMBER 18

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
Ichiyo School flower arrangement demonstration by Deborah Warriner.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, San Diego, CA
More Information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Annual membership appreciation holiday party
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More Information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY MEETING
Orchid tips and friendships.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St, Carlsbad
More information: 858-748-8355

NOVEMBER 19

BERNARDO GARDENERS CLUB MEETING
Liz Youngflesh, owner of Garden Glories Nursery, will share her plant selections.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: RB Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo (Meeting sites may vary.)
More information: 858-672-2454, *www.bernardogardeners.org*

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Informative programs, creative workshops and friendly people.
When: 11:45 A.M.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More Information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-656-8669

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
Scott Calhoun will discuss "Designer Plant Combinations."
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117, *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

NOVEMBER 20

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, NORTH COUNTY CHAPTER MEETING
Membership is open to any one interested in fruit gardening.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mira Room 7003, Mira Costa College Horticulture Bldg., Oceanside
More information: *www.crfg.org/local.html*

NOVEMBER 21

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE MEETING
Come join the fun.
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg. (upstairs), Carlsbad
More information: *www.gardencentral.org/californiagc/miracosta*

NOVEMBER 23

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Help beautify Coronado with this group.
When: 9:15 a.m.
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Public Library, 640 Orange Ave., Coronado
More information: *www.bridgeandbaygardenclub.org*

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
Come to learn more about these lovely plants.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB MEETING
Join us to learn about the native plants of Southern California.
When: 2:00 p.m.
Where: Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Ctr. Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More Information: *www.lhnpc.org*

NOVEMBER 24

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Cultivate your interest in organic gardening techniques.
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: 619-479-9838

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
The Fallbrook Garden Club welcomes new members.
When: 12:30 p.m. Social, 1:00 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Herald Lane, Fallbrook
More Information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Benefit the San Carlos community and make friends.
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dustan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Non-members are welcome guests.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

NOVEMBER 25

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Help promote civic beauty with the San Dieguito Garden Club.
When: 9:30 a.m. Social; 10:00 a.m. – Noon Meeting
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More Information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036; *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com*

NOVEMBER 28

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
Come and learn about these water saving wonders.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553

December Events

DECEMBER 1

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
All Meetings are free and open to the public.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

DECEMBER 2

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
Join us for our holiday potluck dinner.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

DECEMBER 4

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Jeffery Kent, owner of Kent's Bromeliads, will discuss his favorite plants.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Vista Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

DECEMBER 8

Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park Meeting
Join us for tips on growing bromeliads.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500; *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/bronweb.html*

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Christmas luncheon and meeting.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: *www.dosvallesgrdenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
SDGS welcomes new members.
When: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540, *www.sdgeranium.org*

DECEMBER 9

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join this group for their monthly meeting.
When: 9:30 a.m. Hospitality; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More Information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, *dmontg@live.com*

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Everyone is welcome to our annual tea and holiday bazaar.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More Information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
A members-only holiday celebration.
When: 11:00 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join us for our Christmas party and cookie exchange.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

DECEMBER 10

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
Cindy Valdes presents "All About Holiday Decorating" at his members-only event.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117; *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

DECEMBER 12

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Come to our holiday party.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

DECEMBER 13

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Join us to enjoy a presentation by Michael Sykes.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY MEETING
We welcome new members.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.kolzbegonia.com*

DECEMBER 14

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings; $5 for non-members.
When: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

DECEMBER 15

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Community involvement and the joy of gardening.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7111 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More Information: Fran Sheinbein, 858-488-5618

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join us for informative programs and friendly people.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
Contact: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Fill your garden with fabulous native plants.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-434-5033, *www.cnpssd.org*

DECEMBER 16

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
Holiday arrangements from the various schools of Ikebana International
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: 858-673-3535, *hiropan8@san.rr.com*

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY MEETING
Join this club to learn more about orchids.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St, Carlsbad
More information: 858-748-8355

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
SDES annual installation and awards banquet
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: The Butcher Shop Restaurant, Mission Valley, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

DECEMBER 17

BERNARDO GARDENERS CLUB MEETING
Please join us for our holiday luncheon.
When: 11:30 a.m.
Where: To be determined.
More information: 858-672-2454,
www.bernardogardeners.org

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Making Chula Vista more beautiful one garden at a time.
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More Information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-656-8669

DECEMBER 18

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, NORTH COUNTY CHAPTER MEETING
Come learn to grow common and rare varieties of fruit.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 7003, Mira Costa College Horticulture Bldg., Oceanside
More information: *www.crfg.org/local.html*

DECEMBER 19

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE MEETING
Visitors are always welcome.
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg. (upstairs), Carlsbad
More information:
www.gardencentral.org/californiage/miracosta

DECEMBER 22

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join the Bonita Organic Garden Club.
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: 619-479-9838

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Programs, friends and more.
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dustan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Everything you wanted to know about dahlias.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
More information: 858-672-2593

DECEMBER 23

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Start your day with the San Dieguito Garden Club.
When: 9:30 a.m. Social; 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon Meeting
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More Information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036; *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com*

DECEMBER 28

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
Come, learn and enjoy.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB MEETING
Join the LHNPC and start the New Year off right.
When: 2:00 p.m.
Where: Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Ctr. Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More Information: *www.lhnpc.org*

Gardening Classes

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More Information: *www.thegarden.org*, **619-660-0614, x10**

WALKS, TOURS & GARDEN EVENTS
San Diego Botanic Garden Tours
Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden. No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: San Diego Botantic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More Information: *www.SDBGarden.org*

SAN DIEGO BOTANTIC GARDEN: CHILDREN'S EVENTS
The San Diego Botanic Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact San Diego Botanic Garden for a complete listing of its scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More Information: *www.SDBGarden.org*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More Information: *www.thegarden.org*

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free.
When: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego
More Information: (858) 581-9959

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego
More Information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Continued

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: ***www.sandiegozoo.com***

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden. There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D.
When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: ***www.niwa.org***

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: ***www.balboapark.org***

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1 p.m., every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: ***www.balboapark.org***

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details.
More Information: ***www.sdnhm.org canyoneers***

Gardening Defensibly

A new display shows how fire-safe landscape design around homes can reduce wildfire damage

by Dave Ehrlinger

A new display at the San Diego Botanic Garden (formerly Quail Gardens) is designed to help homeowners create landscapes that will aid in protecting their homes from the ravages of wild files.

The city of Encinitas Fire Department received a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fire Safety and Prevention Grant to install a defensible space exhibit adjacent to SDBG's Landscape for Fire Safety garden and south of the main parking lot close to the Ecke Building.

The display features a miniature model house with a mini-landscape that demonstrates the type of fire-safe landscape design, spacing and plant sizes appropriate for sites at the edge of natural areas. The display demonstrates building construction features and the kind of landscaping that creates defensible space around the home. A series of educational labels on building construction, landscape design, plant selection and maintenance provide information to protect against the dangers of wildfires.

Defensible space is the area around a house or building where fuel is trimmed, reduced, or cleared to slow the spread of wildfires. Anything that can burn on your property is potential fuel for a wildfire. Fire-safe landscapes have generally smaller, lower plants and more open spaces between plants. Defensible space also provides firefighters space to operate and do their job.

Among the best plants to use for fire safety are succulents because they store water in their leaves and stems. Their high water content makes these plants hard to burn. Common succulents include cacti, aloes, agaves, yuccas, jade plants, aeoniums and ice plants. There are many species and varieties for landscapes that range from tree aloes to shrubs, perennials and groundcovers.

Groundcovers add color, beauty and small size to fire-safe landscapes. Some good groundcover choices are creeping lantana, prostrate rosemary, gazania, bearberry cotoneaster, yarrow, dymondia, and dwarf coyote bush. Succulent groundcovers are especially good choices. In addition to some kinds of sedum and crassula, smaller types of ice plant are some of the best fire-safe groundcovers. Lawns are, in fact, considered a type of groundcover and are fire-resistant, but for water conservation choose types of grass that use relatively low water, like hybrid Bermuda and buffalo grass.

Although they sometimes get a bad name, many native plants really have good fire resistance, especially if they are watered once or twice a month in summer and fall. Some good choices are lemonade berry, quail bush, laurel sumac, coyote brush, toyon and low-growing perennials.

Some native plants are very flammable, however. Avoid chamise, also called greasewood. Buckwheat, sage and California sagebrush dry out in late summer and fall and can burn easily. All of these should be trimmed back close to the ground in late summer to minimize the amount of flammable material.

Fire-safe landscapes should be watered monthly in summer and fall to reduce flammability and improve appearance. Maintenance is important—remove dead leaves, twigs and branches and trim plants back to reduce their size.

Photo: Jeff Kwiatkowski

Trees are one of the most important elements in fire-safe landscapes because trees provide a large amount of potential fuel for fires. It is wise to keep trees further away from homes. Remove any tree branches within 10 feet of buildings. Thin out larger trees to reduce the amount of fuel. Help prevent ground fires from spreading up into trees by pruning the lower branches of trees and large shrubs. Remove dead branches. Trim overhanging branches above roads and driveways.

Using mulch in the landscape is a big asset in fire safety. Mulch reduces water loss so that plants are less flammable. In addition, mulch improves appearance and reduces weeds, temperature and erosion. Inorganic mulch like gravel and decomposed granite is not flammable while organic mulch such as shredded and chipped wood is also useful.

As a part of this FEMA grant, an informative fire safety brochure is available. In addition, a Firewise Plant Display Garden was installed at Sun Vista Park, in the Olivenhain area of Encinitas. For more information about fire safety, visit *www.cityofencinitas.org/firewise*.

Dave Ehrlinger is director of horticulture for the San Diego Botanic Garden.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907

1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To Promote The Knowledge And Appreciation Of Horticulture And Floriculture In The San Diego Region.

GENERAL MEETINGS 2009

February 17
April 21
June 16
October 20
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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www.citybeautifulofsandiego.org

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619-435-8079

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949-499-5518
marshab@gte.net

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www.niwa.org

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858-755-3284
www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC
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P. O. Box 230005
Encinitas, CA 92023-0005
760-436-3036
info@qbgardens.org
www.qbgardens.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
President: Ed Hamilton
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-234-8901
www.sdbgf.org

Meets second Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Executive Director: Alexander Chuang
404 Third Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101-6803
619-338-9888
www.sdchm.org

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Horticulture Department
P. O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551
619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
www.sandiegozoo.org

SEAWORLD OF CALIFORNIA
500 Sea World Dr.
San Diego, CA 92109-7904
619-222-6363
www.seaworld.com/sandiego

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Sandi Lord
P. O. Box 876
Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
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Meets first Wednesday (Sept., Nov., Jan., March, May) at 10:30 a.m., North County Fair, Escondido, Community Room

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY
Contact: Takashi Ijichi
1455 49th Street
San Diego, CA 92102-2625
619-255-2501
takasumi-e@email.com
Meets first Sunday (Feb., March, Apr., Sept., Oct., Nov.) from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Casa del Prado

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
Librarian: Joan Endres
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West,
El Cajon, CA 92019-4317
619-660-0614
info@thegarden.org
www.thegarden.org

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS
P. O. Box 2711
La Jolla, CA 92038-2711
858-459-0316

FLOWERS OF POINT LOMA
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San Diego, CA 92107-2423
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SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR, PAUL ECKE JR. FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
Del Mar, CA 92014-2216
www.sdfair.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Contact: Darren Simon
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123-1233
858-522-6600 *www.sdcwa.org*

SMALL SPACE CREATIONS
6333 College Grove Way
San Diego, CA 92115-7217
619-981-3273

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619-298-7641

GARDEN CLUBS:

BERNARDO GARDENERS
President: Liliane Dickinson
P. O. Box 27179
San Diego, CA 92198-1179
858-672-2454
www.bernardogardeners.org
Meets the third Thursday (except July and Aug.) at 1:00 p.m.
R. B. Swim & Tennis Club,
16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr.,
Rancho Bernardo

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
President: Leslie Schroeder
2476 Eagle Valley Dr.
Chula Vista, CA 91914-4019
619-987-9257
Meets second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. (except July and Aug), Bonita Public Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Valley Rd., Bonita

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
President: Pat Cooley
950 Olive Ave.
Coronado, CA 92118-2710
619-437-8227
Meets fourth Monday at 9:30 a.m.
Winn Room, Coronado Public Library, 640 Orange Avenue, Coronado
www.bridgeandbaygardenclub.org

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
President: Ellen McGrath-Thorpe
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P. O. Box 626, Carlsbad, CA 92008
760-494-7774
www.carlsbadgardenclub.com

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President: Marilyn Saleny
P. O. Box 57, Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
619-656-8669
Meets third Thursday at 11:45 a.m.
Norman Park Senior Center,
270 F St., Chula Vista

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
President: Shannon Player
P. O. Box 180476
Coronado, CA 92178-0476
619-435-1746
www.crowngardenclub.org
Meets fourth Thursday at 9:30 a.m., Coronado Library, 640 Orange Ave., Coronado

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
President: Evelyn Kent
P. O. Box 123
Valley Center, CA 92082
760-749-5078
www.dosvallesgardenclub.org
Meets second Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., except July and August
St Stephen Catholic Church
31020 Cole Grade Road,
Valley Center

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Co-Presidents: Sandra LeMasters & Janice Phoenix
P. O. Box 1702
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
760-451-0792
www.fallbrookgardenclub.org
Meets last Tuesday (except July and Aug.) at 12:30 p.m.
Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Herald Lane, Fallbrook

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
President Lisa Gordon
2140 Paseo Dorado #2
La Jolla, CA 92037
858-551-4556
Meets second Monday at 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
President: Fran Sheinbein
P. O. Box 2713
La Jolla, CA 92037
858-450-1769
sey@sbcglobal.net
Meets third Tuesday at 1 p.m.
La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7111 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla

LAS JARDINERAS
President: Ann Gallagher
1255 Savoy St.
San Diego, CA 92107
619-222-3559
Meets third Monday at 10:30 a.m. Homes of Members

MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
President: Louise Ortega
158 Carey Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92054
760-598-6571
www.gardencentral.org/californiagc/miracosta
Meets third Saturday (Sept.-Jun. only) at 12:45 p.m.
MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg. (upstairs), Oceanside

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
President: Meredith French
3145 Brant Street
San Diego, CA 92103-5502
619-923-3624
www.missionhillsgardenclub.org
Meets fourth Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
President: Julie Hasl
P. O. Box 6382
San Diego, CA 92166
619-564-7036
www.plgc.org
Meets second Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.
Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Co-Presidents: Hedy Pleramico and Emily Troxell
P. O. Box 27
Poway, CA 92074-0027
858-672-0459
Meets second Wednesday at
Meets second Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.
Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park, Poway

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
President: Debbie Gomez
P. O. Box 1412
Ramona, CA 92065
760-789-8774
www.ramonagardenclub.com
Meets second Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main St., Ramona

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
Contact: Connie Beck
1077 Vista Madera
El Cajon, CA 92019
619-749-4059
Meets third Tuesday each month at 10:00 a.m.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
President: Hal Sexton
P. O. Box 483, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483
858-756-1554
www.rsfgardenclub.org

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
President: Marj Myers
9241 Galston Dr.
Santee, CA 92071-1510
619-448-3613
Meets fourth Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos

SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
Pres. Taylor Murphy
P.O. Box 152611
San Diego, CA 92195
619-269-6184
www.sandiegogardenclub.org

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
President: Susi Torre-Bueno
P. O. Box 231869
Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
760-295-7089
www.sdhortsoc.org
Meets second Monday (except June) from 6:00 p.m.
Surfside Race Place,
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
President: Rita Koczela
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92075
760-436-3036
www.sdgc.klnmicro.com
Meets fourth Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
President: Nan Kaufman
1802 Amalfi St.
La Jolla, CA 92037-3803
858-454-4117 *www.villagegardenclubofljolla.com*
Meets fourth Thursday (Sept. through May) at 10:00 a.m.
Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
President: Lynn Paine
P. O. Box 44
Vista, CA 92085-0044
760-630-0383
www.vistagardenclub.org
Meets first Friday at 12:00 p.m.
Vista Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
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633 Alameda Blvd.
Coronado, CA 92118-2011
619-435-9712

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c/o S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation
P. O. Box 2248
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-2248
858-673-3635
hiropan8@san.rr.com
Meets fourth Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
President: Mrs. Charles Oehler
2822 Walker Dr., San Diego, CA 92123-3056
858-278-5689
www.sandiegoyuyu.com

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 195
Solana Beach, CA 92075
858-672-7850
Meets second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.
La Jolla Library,
7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
President: Jackie Zhang
6435 Muirlands Dr.
La Jolla, CA 92037-6310
858-454-4793
www.oharaschoolsandiego.org

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski
10830 Montego Dr.
San Diego, CA 92124-1421
858-571-6137

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor:
Sumiko Lahey
2829 Flax Dr.
San Diego, CA 92154-2160
619-429-6198

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CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
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760-295-0484
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ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
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San Diego, CA 92107-2333
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President: Denise Knobloch
465 4th Avenue #3
Chula Vista, CA 91910
619-409-4997
www.kolzbegonia.com
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San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas

MARGARET LEE BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
President: Michael Ludwig
6040 Upland St.
San Diego, CA 92114-1933
619-262-7535
Meets last Saturday at 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
President: Brenda Storey
9976 Dauntless St.
San Diego, CA 92126-5514
858-689-0957
Meets first Sunday (every other month, begin Feb.) at 10:30 a.m.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
President: Steve Valentine
P. O. Box 40037
San Diego, CA 92164-0037
619-699-8776
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com
Meets second Sunday at 10:30 am (except May and Oct.) at 9:00 a.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Basic Classes are available at 9:00 a.m. in Room 104.
Alternate meeting locations in May and Oct.

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
President: Chuck Largin
9137 Dillion Dr.
La Mesa, CA 91941
Meets second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
President: Nancy Groves
P. O. Box 83996
San Diego, CA 92138-3996
858-453-6486
http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
Meets second Saturday at 10:00 a.m., Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
President: Paul M. Steward
P. O. Box 840
Escondido, CA 92033
760-741-7553
Meets fourth Saturday at 12:00 p.m.
Joslyn Senior Center,
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
President: Chris Miller
P. O. Box 33181
San Diego, CA 92163-3181
619-795-1020
www.sdcss.com
Meets second Saturday (except Jun., Sept. and Dec.) at 1:00 p.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Dean Turney
467 Fulvia Street
Encinitas, CA 92024
760-942-1919
Meets third Wednesday (Jan. – Mar. only) at 7:00 p.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
President: David J. Tooley
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego, CA 92129-1116
858-672-2593
djsj21643@aol.com
Meets fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.,
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: Gary Colby
11375 Alberni Court
San Diego, CA 92126
858-566-0503
Meets first Saturday (except Sept., Dec. and Jan.) at 10:00 a.m.
Ecke Building, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
President: Sandra Chapin
P. O. Box 126127
San Diego, CA 92112-6127
858-485-5414
www.epiphyllum.com
Meets second Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
President: Kathie Russell
1418 Park Row
La Jolla, CA 92037-3710
619-464-2609
www.sdfern.com
Meets third Thursday at
7:30 p.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, S.D. CHAPTER
Chair: David Yetz
P. O. Box 152943
San Diego, CA 92195
619-659-8788
www.crfsandiego.org
Meets third Friday, 7:00 p.m.
Mira Costa College Hort. Bldg., Rm 7003, Oceanside

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, NORTH COUNTY CHAPTER
Contact: Ben Pierce
713 Ruskin Place
San Marcos, CA 92069-1197
760-412-9614
www.crfg.org/local.html
Meets third Friday, 7:00 p.m., Mira Costa College Hort. Bldg., Room 7003

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
President: Brenda Archer
6404 Zena Dr.
San Diego, CA 92115-7026
619-447-8243
www.sdgeranium.org
Meets second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Co-Presidents: Judy Dunning &
Cindy Christ
200 Highline Trail
El Cajon, CA 92021-4082
619-579-0222
www.thesandiegoherbclub.com
Meets first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

IRIS

SAN DIEGO IRIS SOCIETY
President: Janis Shackelford
760-788-1376
http://sites.google.com/site/sandiegoirissociety
Meets second Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
(except July and Aug.)
Lakeside Historical Society Building,
9906 Maine Ave., Lakeside

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY
President: Mary Anne Abrahms
4512 Sunnyslope Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3119
818-986-4188
Meets first Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan Avenue, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Carolyn Martus
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
760-434-5033
http://cnpssd.org
Meets third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
President: Vernon Bluhm
P. O. Box 301582
Escondido, CA 92030
760-745-4008
www.llnpc.org
Meets fourth Monday at 2:00 p.m.
(except July and Aug.)
Rancho Bernardo Library Community Room, 17110 Bernardo Center Dr.,
Rancho Bernardo

ORCHID

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY
President: Dr. Gilbert J. Ho
2560 Wilt Rd.
Fallbrook, CA 92028-9587
760-840-8659
www.palomarorchid.org
Meets first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Carlsbad Woman's Club,
3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
President: Phyllis Prestia
3849 Via Del Rancho
Oceanside, CA 92056
760-732-0055
Meets third Wednesday
(except Jul. and Aug.) at 7:00 p.m.
Carlsbad Woman's Club,
3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
President: David Brown
4029 Georgia Street
San Diego, CA 92103
619-294-5925
posiedon_djb@juno.com
Meets first Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
President: Jane Campbell
619-741-8448
kreepyhollow@gmail.com
Meets fourth Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Bonita Library Community Room,
4375 Bonita Road, Bonita

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
President: Roland Dubuc
P. O. Box 20553,
El Cajon, CA 92021-0940
858-565-4597
www.socalplumeriasociety.com
Meets second Sunday (Feb.–Aug.)
at 1:00 p.m.
War Memorial Building, Balboa Park

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
President: Kristi Sutherlin
2007 Muira Lane, El Cajon, 92109
619-447-4131
www.eastcountyrosesociety.com
Meets first Sunday
(except Jul. and Aug.) at 2:00 p.m.
Gardens of members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
President: Roger English
6705 Maury Dr.
San Diego, CA 92119-2020
619-462-5753
Meets third Monday,
(except Jul. and Aug.) at 7:30 p.m.
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
President: Ed Simpson
1302 Avocado Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92054-5702
760-436-3704
dc@pondplants.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden
Meets third Sunday (Apr.–Oct.)
Call for meeting information.

Send changes to Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. Call 619-232-5762
Email: *membership@sdfloral.org*
January/February 2010 issue: November 10, 2009 Each affiliate group is entitled to a business-cardsized ad at half price. We can accept your designed ad (TIFF, JPEG or PDF files preferred).

In Season

Here are some items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in November and December. (For more information on San Diego County Farmers' Markets, visit *www.sdfarmbureau.org*.)

November: Apples, Asian pears, avocados, basil, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cherimoyas, cucumbers, grapes, green beans, guavas, herbs, lemons, lettuce, limes, macadamia nuts, melons, navel oranges, peppers, persimmons, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tangerines, tomatoes and various cut flowers.

December: Apples, basil, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cherimoyas, guavas, herbs, kiwi, lemons, limes, lettuce, macadamia nuts, navel oranges, peppers, persimmons, potatoes, radishes, spinach, winter squash, tangelos, tangerines, tomatoes and various cut flowers.

Basil

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Contact Us! Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let *California Garden* readers know about? If so, please email *sdfloral@gmail.com* or Denise Thompson at *EarthD@san.rr.com* with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room #105, San Diego CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Jan/Feb 2010 issue is November 10, 2009; the deadline for the Mar/Apr 2010 issue is January 10, 2010.

El Monte County Park near Lakeside represents a successful San Diego Floral Association preservation effort. Excerpts from three California Garden *articles tell the laudable tale. The 88-acre park sits in a valley below the rocky face of El Cajon Mountain. Surrounding boulder-studded peaks shelter a magnificent grove of new and very old native oaks. The scenic location has been discovered and enjoyed by succeeding waves of new San Diegans, most recently by our large Chaldean community. Today there are ball fields, play equipment, picnic areas and outdoor wedding sites among the oaks. — Nancy Carol Carter*

Conserving the Grove

October 1920

[The El Monte Oak grove is home to] some of the largest oaks in San Diego County. It is this beauty spot which the Floral association is seeking to have set aside as a pleasure grounds and "breathing place." A committee from the association is working on a plan to conserve this grove.

September 1921

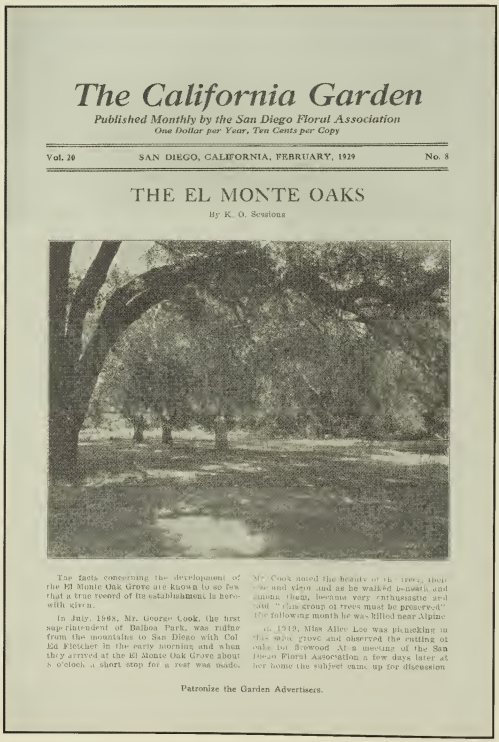
With the purchase of the El Monte Oaks tract assured, the committee . . . is concerned with . . . providing the necessary conveniences . . . . An estimate of the cost of comfort stations, store building, suitable water supply, fire protection, etc., has been placed at $5,000, and it is this amount the Floral Association will raise in the campaign recently commenced. Hundreds of picnickers are already using the park . . . . The Floral Association feels confident that its members and friends will respond to the appeal; and that this beautiful grove, the like of which does not exist within twice the distance from San Diego, may be preserved, and made a recreation spot which will be a credit and an asset to San Diego Country for many years to come. *—Geo. W. Marston, Chairman*

February 1929

In July 1908, Mr. George Cook, the first superintendent of Balboa Park was riding from the mountains to San Diego with Col. Ed Fletcher in the early morning and when they arrived at the El Monte Oak Grove . . . Mr. Cook noted the beauty of the trees, their size and vigor and as he walked beneath and among them, became very enthusiastic and said, "This group of trees must be preserved." The following month he was killed near Alpine.

In 1919 Miss Alice Lee was picnicking in the same grove and observed the cutting of oaks for firewood. At a meeting of the San Diego Floral Association a few days later at her home the subject came up for discussion. A protest was endorsed against the destruction of those fine oaks and a committee was appointed to investigate the conditions and learn what could be done for their preservation. *—K.O. Sessions*

At the May 1920 meeting, Mr. Marston urged the members to carry through the El Monte Oaks project; saying the Association could never do anything of greater benefit to San Diego than to preserve these splendid oaks only one hour from the city by auto.



The California Garden

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THE EL MONTE OAKS

By K. O. Sessions

The facts concerning the development of the El Monte Oak Grove are known to so few that a true record of its establishment is here-with given.

In July, 1908, Mr. George Cook, the first superintendent of Balboa Park, was riding from the mountains to San Diego with Col Ed Fletcher in the early morning and when they arrived at the El Monte Oak Grove about 8 o'clock a short stop for a rest was made.

Mr. Cook noted the beauty of the trees, their size and vigor and as he walked beneath and among them, became very enthusiastic and said, "This group of trees must be preserved." The following month he was killed near Alpine.

In 1919, Miss Alice Lee was picnicking in this same grove and observed the cutting of oaks for firewood. At a meeting of the San Diego Floral Association a few days later at her home the subject came up for discussion

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Garden of Lights

December 10 - 23 • December 26 - 30
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

After the sun goes down, the Garden is transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland with over 100,000 sparkling lights illuminating the Garden for a magical holiday experience. Many of these lights are LED, which are much brighter than regular lights. Adding to the sparkle is the "Poinsettia Garden," festively decorated with many varieties of poinsettias.

Numerous activities include horse-drawn-wagon rides, holiday crafts, marshmallow roasting, visits with Santa, live music, hot mulled wine in the Poinsettia Garden, and refreshments. Special Holiday Tales and Tunes for children ages two to six will be offered several nights in December.

ADMISSION PRICES:
Members, Seniors, Military & Students $8
Non-members $12, Children 3-12 $4
There will be additional fees for some activities.

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230 Quail Gardens Drive
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Photos: Rachel Cobb